



Bridgend student meets Mr Sheen.
(See page 3).

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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2012

KIDNEY RESEARCH WALES WALK FOR LIFE



Picture by Keith E Morgan

Young and old turned out in force for the annual Kidney Research Wales Walk for Life (SEE PAGE 6)

CLUB CHAIRMAN (70) THREATENED WITH A KNIFE PENCOED MAN JAILED AFTER GOUGING PENSIONER'S EYES

THE chairman of Pencoed Social Club had his eyes gouged when he was confronted by an enraged banned member who was wielding a knife – "everything went black and 70-year-old Gwynne Howell was in intense pain and in a state of extreme fright" – said prosecutor Gareth James, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Damian Hole (37) of Erw Ifan, Pencoed, was

jailed for eight months.

He had been convicted by Vale Magistrates on charges of assault and possessing a bladed weapon, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Judge William Gaskell told him: "You decided to make clear your grievance. The day before you had given up your job and consumed a great deal of alcohol."

"You took a knife to threaten Mr Howell. You may not have intended using it – he didn't know

that. You assaulted a defenceless 70-year-old by gouging his eyes."

Mr James said that on March 10, Hole had a dispute at his home and left saying: "I love all of you, I'm not coming back."

Mr Howell attended the Pencoed Social Club, and went to the premises at about 9am that day and was in his office using his computer when Hole walked in.

Mr James said the two had known each other for about 20 years.

CROWN COURT report by AJ SICLUNA

There had been "issues", and at the time, Hole was banned for two years.

He shouted at Mr Howell: "You're the one who got me banned for sleeping."

He repeatedly swore at him and slammed down a can of cider on the desk. Mr Howell said: "I think you should leave."

Hole then produced a knife in his right hand. It had a serrated seven-inch blade and Mr Howell said: "What the hell have you got that knife for?"

Mr James said that

Hole was now in a mad rage, and he pointed the tip at Mr Howell's stomach. Mr Howell grabbed Hole's wrist to force the knife away and called for help.

A cleaner then phoned the police.

Hole said: "Let go, or I'll gouge your eyes out," and he knocked off Mr Howell's glasses and hearing aid.

"He grabbed his face and eyes and began to gouge them," said Mr James.

Hole then said he was not going to do anything with the knife and left.

Mr Howell has chronic bronchitis and had to use a ventilator, said Mr James.

He suffered a mark on his right eye and was very apprehensive about returning to the club.

He said he had tried to help Hole in the past and added: "I've had a guts-full of him. I want him to stay away from the club."

The incident lasted about 15 minutes, said Mr James, and everyone on the premises feared for their safety and were

in shock. An armed response unit arrested Hole and he had to be forcibly restrained.

He told the police the weapon was the family bread knife and he added that he felt Mr Howell didn't like him.

The night before, he said, he had 16 cans of cider. He was said to have previous convictions for causing damage and possessing a weapon with the intention of harming himself.

His barrister, Byron Broadstock, said: "He

accepts that taking a knife in such a scenario was extremely stupid.

"He was disgruntled at being banned and intended to reinforce his point by having the knife."

"There was no intention to cause injury, but there was some suggestion that he wanted to harm himself."

"His family remain supportive of Hole, who suffers chronic epilepsy and lacks consequential thinking skills."

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Bark Avenue...it's streets ahead

Motor cycle rider dies after crash

A MOTORCYCLIST from Bridgend has died after colliding with a camper van.

South Wales Police confirmed that Damien Williamson, aged 24, of Pant Gwyn, Bridgend, died following a road traffic collision at around 11.40am on Monday (April 16).

Damien's family has paid tribute to him, saying: "Damien was a son any parent would be very proud to call their own."

"Yes, he achieved at school and went to university, but Damien was so much more than that."

"He was someone who would help anybody who was in need, sometimes by fixing or repairing things, other times by just being there and listening."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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New minibuses for Garw and Ogmore Valleys



Colin Evans (director of OTED) and Howard Ready (volunteer driver).

WORKING with Community Transport Association Wales, BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) have been successful in their application to fund two new minibuses for the Garw and Ogmore Valleys for OTED's Community Transport Scheme.

Funded by the Western Valley Strategic Regeneration Area and match funded by South East Wales Transport Alliance, the new minibuses will provide low cost transport to groups and non-profit making organisations in these areas.

The transport scheme, supported by BAVO, is available to anyone living in Bridgend County Borough who have difficulty in accessing basic public transport services, are socially isolated, may not have other modes of transport, experience mobility difficulties or find it hard to use conventional transport.

Christina Christie, BAVO's Transport and Community Development Worker said: "The addition of minibuses for the Garw and Ogmore Valleys is fantastic news, as it will ensure that travel from these areas will be more accessible, cheaper – and encourage more people to get out of the house to boost their emotional health and wellbeing."

Teenager takes diabetes message to Parliament

DIABETES research charity JDRF has chosen 15-year-old Hannah Jarret from Bridgend as one of 60 adults and children with type-1 diabetes to lobby Parliament on April 25.

A spokesperson explained: "Type-1 diabetes is a serious autoimmune condition that causes the body's own immune system to turn on itself and attack cells in the pancreas, which produces insulin. The condition affects about 300,000 adults in the UK, including more than 26,000 children and requires multiple daily insulin injections and finger prick blood tests to manage."

Hannah said: "I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to speak

to Members of Parliament about an issue that is close to my heart and by taking part in Type-1 Parliament I hope that more funding will be given to type-1 diabetes, in order to fund medical research meaning that we will be closer to finding the cure."

"In 2009 the UK Government, through funding bodies, including the Medical Research Council and National Institute of Health Research, committed £51 million to research, to tackle the growing problem of diabetes.

"Of this, only £6 million was applicable to type-1 diabetes. In relation to funding, the UK falls way behind other developed countries and JDRF believes that this needs to change.

"Not only will greater investment in research ensure we find the cure for type-1 diabetes sooner, it could also bring significant advantages to the UK economy," the spokesperson stated.

Bridgend drop-in event for wannabe care workers

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is again holding a free information event for people who want to make caring their career.

"More than 50 people attended last year's drop-in session to find out more about the role of a home care worker and view current vacancies; and 15 local people were recruited to help older and disabled people live as independently as possible in their own homes, a spokeswoman stated."

This year's event will take place tomorrow (Friday, April 20), from 2pm-4.30pm in the Civic Offices and the council hopes to attract as many people this time round.

People like Sarah Pugh, who made a complete career change last year after spending nearly six years working in the Trespass store at MacArthur Glen Designer outlet.

Sarah said: "I had considered a career in the care sector for some time, but I wasn't in a position to make the change. I enjoy meeting people and I'm a good



SARAH PUGH.

listener – qualities which definitely help in my role. I have built up an excellent rapport with the people I visit. Some of my clients took to me straight away, but with others it takes time for them to get to know you and to build their trust.

"I love my job and am so pleased I made the change – not only am I am doing something that I enjoy and find extremely rewarding, but it also allows me to be more flexible and spend more time with my family."

"My advice to anyone considering a career as a home carer would be to just go for it! If you are a patient person, with a caring nature and a good sense of humour, I would definitely recommend it – and it helps if you enjoy a good chat!"

The council currently employs over 300 home care workers who provide personal and practical support to around 800 older or disabled people throughout the county borough 365 days a year. Staff work in teams of three on a three-week rota and roles can include support with personal care such as washing, dressing and toileting, as well as some domestic tasks.

The council currently has vacancies in its home care service for people needing ongoing support, its specialist service for people with dementia and BridgeStart which is short-term enabling and assessment service.

Tracing your family history

BRIDGEND residents wanting to trace their family history are being invited to go along to three libraries during Adult Learners Week next month.

Bridgend's Library service has teamed up with Family History Detectives (www.family-historydetectives.co.uk) to promote family history within libraries in the local community by providing free access to pc's and library online resources, including www.findmypast.co.uk.

The initiative has been designed to support people in their own communities, as they search for their family history.

Courses, trips, events

and activities are being planned, as well as the availability of family history packs, kits and guides.

The project will be launched with initial information and taster sessions on May 16. Paul Wilkins and Julie Daniel will be at Ty'r Ardd Local and Family History Library from 12pm-1pm; Sam Life Long Learning Centre from 2pm-3pm and Pyle Life Centre from 4pm-5pm.

Six-week courses are planned to commence at all three libraries starting the following week, aimed at those beginning to trace their family history.

Shane (and grandad) champion forces charity

LANCE Cpl Shane Bowen called into the Healing the Wounds HQ office at the Enterprise Centre in Tondur last week for a flying visit, during an unplanned trip back to Wales from Tidworth Barracks.

Shane is a big supporter of the charity which support and treat veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces who suffer from PTSD and is spreading the word and raising awareness, together with his grandad Bill

John, treasurer for Healing the Wounds.

Bill is also chairman of the Royal Welsh Veterans association at the Bridgend branch and, like his grandson, is passionate about helping veterans.

Shane is due to visit Canada with the Army very soon, but will continue to call into the charity's office from time to time, before his tour of Afghanistan in 2013.

"Healing the Wounds would like to thank Shane for all his help and wish him the very best in his promising career in the Army," a spokesperson said.



SHANE BOWEN

Charity needs your help

ARE you arranging an event in your community and looking for a charity to support?

Llanaau is a registered charity working in south Wales to support homeless young people and vulnerable women.

We're looking for people to raise money for us in their community – whether it's a cake sale or a pub quiz.

To find out more about our work, visit www.llanaau.org.uk, or call 029 2023 9585.

HUGH RUSSELL, (Fundraiser, Cardiff)

Community café opens in Caerau

CROSSROAD Care is opening its new community café in the Caerau

Development Trust (the old Blaenllynfi Primary School building, Grosvenor Terrace, Caerau, CF34 0RW) on Tuesdays 12.30pm-3.30pm, from April 24.

It will be open to all with activities, table sales, and a raffle each week.

There will also be a 1940s theme fundraising event on Friday, June 15, at 7pm, in collaboration with the Bridgend Carers Centre and Trinity Care & Support.

The evening will include 1940s style singers, the Bridgend Swing Band and dancers from the Bryntirion Dance Centre.

Tickets available from Crossroads Care 01656 784100 or via email to info@trinitycareandsupport.co.uk or via the Bridgend Carers Centre on 01656 658479.

MP'S CALL TO BUSINESSES

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon is calling on local businesses to get involved in Manufacturing Excellence 2012, the UK-wide awards programme which not only identifies and celebrates outstanding UK manufacturing businesses, but can also help companies improve.

The programme, launched by the Institute for Mechanical Engineers, works with all manufacturing businesses, whatever their size,

age, sector or area of expertise to help improve their processes and showcase their successes and innovations.

The MP explained: "I'm calling for businesses to apply and take advantage of the programme. Entry is free and there is up to £20,000 free consultancy advice up for grabs, as well as the chance to win at the prestigious Manufacturing Excellence Awards in November."

"More information about how to enter is available through the Institute for Mechanical Engineers website: www.mxawards.org/home."

Help wanted for charity

ADDITIONAL trustees and directors are being sought by Sustainable Wales and Sussed Wales.

Extra help is also needed in areas of accounts, administration, grants and fundraising, project development, publicity, IT, design, research, event coordination and also in the shop with sales, displays, orders etc. would be very welcome.

Contact Margaret on 01656 783405 or email mm@sustainablewales.org.uk to arrange a meeting.

Spring events voted a success for Porthcawl kidney charity branch

THE Porthcawl branch of Kidney Wales would like to thank all those who supported their recent events.

The money raised goes to help transforming the lives of families in the local area and across Wales affected by kidney disease and renal failure.

The Porthcawl branch of Kidney Wales has held two highly successful fundraising events this spring.

The first, a social evening at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court Bowls Club, saw a good crowd gathered for a silent auction with a musical interlude. Once again, those attending were very generous with their bids at the auction and all enjoyed the music when Laurence Chilcott entertained by

singing and playing the guitar.

A buffet was provided by committee members and a total of £500 was raised as a result of a very enjoyable evening.

The second fundraising event, the Porthcawl Kidney Walk for Life, attracted more than 70 adult walkers, plus children and dogs. The walk was started by Nicholas Lloyd, the latest person in Porthcawl to have a transplant after his mother Amanda donated a kidney to him last September.

As in previous years, the walkers were led by Alan Williams. When all the sponsor money has been collected, around £2,000 will have been raised.

GR

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	06.09	9.1	18.28	9.1
20 Fri	06.46	9.2	19.07	9.3
21 Sat	07.22	9.4	19.37	9.4
22 Sun	07.57	9.5	20.09	9.5
23 Mon	08.27	9.3	20.39	9.3
24 Tues	08.59	9.2	21.11	9.2
25 Wed	09.28	8.9	21.41	8.9
26 Thur	10.03	8.7	22.14	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

COUNCIL ASSURANCES AT PORTHCAWL WELCOMED

'MONSTER PARK' PURCHASE WILL NOT BE MET BY THE TAXPAYERS

ASSURANCES by Bridgend County Borough Council that council taxpayers will not be funding the purchase of a piece of land needed for the Porthcawl regeneration scheme have been welcomed by Shadow regeneration minister Byron Davies.

The regional Tory AM, wrote to chief executive Jo Farrar in January, seeking further information about the Monster Park next door to the Coney beach fun fair.

The piece of land is leased to the private

landowners, who are in partnership with the council over regeneration. Compensation is to be paid to the leaseholders out of the £15m estimated receipts from the sale of land for Phase 2 of the regeneration.

This phase includes the building of houses at the Sandy Bay caravan site, which is owned by the council. The Monster Park is needed to provide access to this land.

Mr Davies said he was concerned that the council intends to use compulsory purchase powers to acquire the Monster Park from the freeholders.

"I assume that the cost of buying the land will be deducted from the share of the money going to the council's business partners who currently hold the leasehold."

"But I have been assured by the council that while the council would use its compulsory powers to purchase this land, it would not be funding it."

"I assume that the cost of buying the land will be deducted from the share of the money going to the council's business partners who currently hold the leasehold."

The letter also clarified the land holdings of the two parties involved in regeneration the council and the Evans Families.

The council is stated to own 80 acres while the Evans' have 90.7 – although 66.6 acres of that comprises the beach in front of the Coney Beach funfair and is below the highwater mark.

'Pony Express' MYSTERY SOLVED!



Peter Foley, Roger Marsh and David Unwin are delighted to see the return of a postbox for the people of Quarella Road, Bridgend.

AFTER a wait of over six months, a Royal Mail posting box has been reinstated in Quarella Road, Bridgend.

All through the winter, residents of a large area of Morfa ward had been without their much-used posting facility after the brick pillar which houses their Victorian box, finally cracked up under the strain of constant use for more than a century.

The original box was removed and is now in a Royal Mail museum. But collection times from the new 'Diamond

Jubilee' box remained a mystery – until days after, this photograph was taken.

Then, by magic, they appeared!

Bridgend Town Council campaigners Peter Foley, Roger Marsh and David Unwin had all taken a personal interest in having this facility restored for the public and were delighted to see their efforts rewarded.

No doubt the new box can be paid for with the recent steep rise in the cost of stamps!

Store's £721 donation to Bridgend Samaritans

THE presentation of £721.63 was made to Bridgend Samaritans on Monday on behalf of the staff and customers of Murco petrol station in Pencoed.

The fuel forecourt and the associated Costcutter supermarket are part of the Making a Difference Locally scheme, a national charity operating through local businesses supporting local good causes.

A Samaritans' spokesman said: "The Murco garage has been supporting Bridgend Samaritans since December 13, 2001 with an in-shop collection box, which has contributed in excess of £1,000 in recent years."

"Bridgend Samaritans would like to thank the owner and management for the valuable support they continue to provide. The selection of the Bridgend Samaritans for the new charitable giving is greatly appreciated, especially at a time when charitable funds are difficult to obtain."

Samaritans is a voluntary organisation offering emotional support to anyone in need. The service is confidential, non-judgmental and available 24-hours a day, everyday. Call 08457 622 333.

Who wants to build what and where?

C Mansell, Branksome Heol Yr Ysgol – cut down and remove fir tree, trim copper beech hedge and prune cherry tree.

Mr Anthony Morris, 38 Park Street, Bridgend – uncap chimney and rebuild stack, replace lead capping with clay ridge and replace wood fascias with uPVC.

Mr M Jones, 11 Geol Tyn Y Garn, Peny-y-Fai – two storey side and single storey rear extension.

Mr Simon Homeyard, 83 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – velux roof terrace into approved loft conversion, fit two velux roof lights to front.

Mr M Davies, 1 Glanberis Terrace, Blaengarw Road, Blaengarw – land adjacent 1 Glanberis Terrace, Blaengarw Road, Blaengarw – include land into curtilage of garden and rebuild retaining wall.

Mr Chris Tough, 1 Hendre Gardens, Pencoed – detached single garage.

Tesco Store Ltd, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend – install storage pod and canopy over space taken up by 10 parking spaces within store car park.

Mr Stewart Lampard, Gardeners Cottage, Rest Home, Porthcawl – two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and balcony.

Mr Tony Powell, 24 Litchard Terrace, Bridgend – first floor rear extension

Mr James Moroney, 92 Glenwood Close, Coychurch – single storey side extension and garage conversion.

Mr Albert Wilson, 35 Heol Fron Fraith Fawr, Broadlands – conservatory to rear of property and 2.4m high timber fence to part rear boundary.

Mr NA Guild, Hyfrydol House, Turberville Street, Maesteg – extend dwelling, new roof and loft conversion and detached garage/workshop/store.

Mrs D Underhill, Margarets Wool Shop, Pyle Road, Pyle – change of use from dwelling and shop to dwelling and amend front elevation and new shower room.

Mr and Mrs Chilcott, 1 Shearwater Close, Porthcawl – kitchen extension to side.

Porthcawl Angling Association, Pwl Y Waun Lake, Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl – permanent siting of storage container.

Students meet star Welsh star



Chloe Carter and Callum Greer with Michael Sheen (centre).

LAST week two lucky FILMCLUB Cymru reporters had the invaluable experience of interviewing the actor Michael Sheen at the premiere of his new film *The Gospel of Us*.

Bridgend teenager Chloe Carter experienced her own cinematic close-up when FILMCLUB, the education charity and experts in film for young people, sent her to the premiere of *The Gospel of Us* in Port Talbot's Apollo Cinema on Sunday, April 8.

Chloe Carter (19), who goes to Bridgend College and Callum Greer from Greenhill School, Tenby, recently applied to be a young reporter for the charity and were picked to cover the event, at which they met Michael Sheen, the poet and screenplay

author Owen Sheers and the director Dave McKean.

The Gospel of Us, is a feature film rendering of the groundbreaking ground-breaking National Theatre Wales Passion Play production, starring Michael Sheen.

FILMCLUB Cymru young reporter Chloe Carter said: "I have always been interested in the film industry so winning this competition to represent FILMCLUB was amazing"

Launched in Wales in May 2011 with the backing of Michael Sheen and the Welsh Government, FILMCLUB helps schools set up and run film clubs for teachers and pupils to watch, discuss and review a diverse range of films.

For information about FILMCLUB visit www.filmclub.org.

Bridgend bridge results

THE recent results for Bridgend Bridge Club are: Wednesday April 11: First – John Raymond and Terry Reilly; Second – Marjorie Morris and Irene Thomas; Third – Rar Smith and John Evans.

Friday April 13: First – Mary Moore and Mike Best; Second – Alan and Sheena Gray; Third – Ann Fox and Steve Burgoyne.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm with Graham Jones, lessons for improvers will resume in the autumn. To register an interest please contact: Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958) or David Newman (01656 649138).

COMMUNITY CAFE

CROSSROADS Care will launch its new community cafe on April 24 at Caerau Development Trust (the old Blaenllynfi Primary School).

Freshly made food, weekly raffle, activities, table sales.

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THE April meeting of Sker WI was held recently in St David's Church Hall Nottage, when president Nina Charlesworth welcomed members. Final arrangements made for the birth-day meal at the Rest and Link meeting in North Comelly.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Mike Wilcock, who gave a very informative talk on Life in the Fashion Business.

Mr Wilcock had worked in the business for 35 years with C & A, starting as a trainee

in Manchester and working his way up to be a Store manager in Cardiff and then Swansea.

He moved to various stores in the north of England before coming to south Wales.

The amount of shoplifting that occurred cost the company thousands of pounds. The Dutch company had 120 stores in the UK, which all closed in 2001. The company is still trading abroad and has 1,400 stores worldwide.

The next meeting is on May 10, when resolutions will be discussed, followed by social time.

AV

Life in Victorian times was tough!

NEWS FROM PENCOED WI

THE speaker at the April meeting was Val Williams (not the president!)

Dressed as a Victorian woman, she gave an interesting and informative talk about the life of a young girl.

Listening to her describe how five-year-old children worked in the mines for upward of 10 hours a day made members very glad that they live in more modern times.

At the March craft club, 18 members made a chicken egg cosy, and in April it will be a material peg bag.

These are old traditional crafts most of us haven't used since our childhood.

The Glamorgan Federation Show, which used to be part of the two-day event in Margam, is now being held in the community centre at North Comelly

on Saturday July 28.

The display will range from flower arrangements to baking, sewing to painting, plus many more crafts, so members are urged to go along to show what a clever lot they are in Glamorgan!

Pencoed WI's next meeting is on May 8. There's no speaker as it's the annual resolutions discussion.

The June speaker's talk is entitled 'Send a Cow'. So, if anyone would like to learn what the WI is all about, go along to the Welfare Hall, Pencoed, on the second Tuesday of each month at 1.45pm.

Visitors and guests are always welcome.

For further information, telephone Val on 01656 862181, or Pat on 01656 860289.

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porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Maesteg U3A

THE group recently enjoyed a thought-provoking talk from guest speaker Gary Victor, sharing his experience's of journeying to Machu Picchu in Peru.

His talk was full of interesting observations and stories of this classic scenic journey. The site, built by the Incas in the 15th Century, is located in the Cusco Region 2,430 metres (7,970ft) above sea level overlooking the Urumba Valley.

It is believed to be part of an estate built for Emperor Pachacuti (1438-1472) and is referred to as the 'Lost City of the Incas'.

It was unknown to the outside world before being brought to international attention in 1911 by the American historian Hiram Bingham. Machu Picchu was declared a Peruvian historical sanctuary in 1981 and a UNESCO world heritage site in 1983. In 2007, Machu Picchu was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

The next meeting of the U3A will be at the Central Church Hall on Tuesday 24 April at the new time of 2pm. The speaker, Emma Roberts, will be discussing the role of RSPB in Wales. New members' welcomed.

'Get Happy'

MAESTEG Amateur Operatic Society will be presenting a concert titled 'Get Happy' with their special guests **Curtain Up Youth Theatre** at St Michael and All Angels Church on Friday, April 20 at 7.15pm. Tickets, £6, can be obtained from members of both organisations.

School eisteddfod

BLAENGARW primary invited **Côr Meibion Cwm Garw** (Garw Valley male voice choir) to the school's recent eisteddfod.

Mrs Emanuel, headteacher, greeted everyone to the ceremony, and the eisteddfod began with Key Stage 2 (KS) pupil Caitlin White reciting a poem titled 'The Sound Collector'.

This was followed with a solo sung by Key Stage 1 (KS1) pupil Alexis Abraham with his rendition of 'Ty Bach Twt'. There was then a two part art competition won by Thomas Lewis (KS1) and Keiran Dix (KS2) for their depiction of 'Cymraeg Arwr Chwaraeon' (Welsh Sports Hero).

Thomas Lewis (KS1) gave a faultless performance with his recitation of 'The Little Turtle' and followed this up by winning the poetry writing competition with 'Going for Gold'.

Years 3, 4 and 5 winner of The Poetry Writing Competition of 'Going for Gold' was Olivier Feiven and an impeccable solo performance of 'Frindiau (Friends)' was given by Olivia Stadden (KS2).

This was followed by

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



the announcement of the Handwriting Competition winners as Jessica Evans (KS1), Chloe Lambert (KS2 years 3/4) and Bethan Pinches (KS2 years 5/6).

Alexis Abraham gave a recitation 'Y Pwll Nofio' (The Swimming Pool), followed by 'Y Ras' (The Race) recited by Josie Pinches.

Côr Meibion joined the Ocean Yellow House in singing 'Calon Lan,' a most appropriate choice as it was written in Blaengarw by the bard Gwilym Iwan Jones (Daniel James) to the music of John Hughes.

The Male Choir then performed with three more Welsh songs, followed by Dawnsio Gwerin (folk dance) an enjoyable performance by Ocean Yellow House of the very popular 'Jac-y-Do' (Jackdaw).

Highlight of the evening as with all Eisteddfodau was the 'Chairing of the Bard Ceremony' (Cadeirio'r Bardd) presided over by Chief Druid Josie Pinches, attended by Druids Morgan Hoard and Wil Lewis.

The winning poet and chaired Bard was Gabrielle Whittingham for her poem 'Going For Gold'.

Côr Meibion welcomes visitors and new members to its rehearsals in Pontycymer rugby football club on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 7pm to 8.30pm.

Girls' rugby

PENCOED Rugby Club is holding an open evening for girls who would like to take up rugby on April 26 at 6.30pm - 7.30pm, (ages 10-13 years). Contact Paul James on 07735015598, or 01656 860152.

Dinner lady

TONDU primary school headteacher, Mrs Pilcher, would be interested in hearing from any parent or grandparent willing to help out as a relief dinner lady.

Wedding date

OGMORE Valley male voice choir will sing at the wedding of Darren Wilcox and Sarah Wilkinson tomorrow, Friday 20 April at Coed Y Mwstwr.

The choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale on Thursday evenings. There will be a warm welcome for visitors and prospective new members.

Celebration

ST BRIDE'S Church, Llansantffraid, will be a special service titled 'Resurrection Joy' to celebrate the life of loved ones on Sunday,

April 22 at 7pm; everyone is welcome.

Barn dance

TO celebrate the retirement of Rev David Mortimore, his friends will hold a barn dance at Betws primary school on Friday, April 27. Tickets £1 and everyone is being advised to bring a plate as there will be plenty of food in a prepared buffet.

Carers meet

BRIDGEND Carers Centre at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479) is holding a **pamper morning for carers on Tuesday, April 24 between 10am to 12.30pm.**

On April 25, Howells solicitors will be in attendance to give advice on legal issues affecting carers between 10am to 12pm. Please book an appointment.

If you are a young adult carer aged 18 to 25 years who cares for someone who is ill or disabled and would like to meet youngsters in the same situation, go along on April 25 between 4pm-6pm, for activities such as crafts and social events.

Mental health

COMMUNITY companions is an opportunity for adults aged over 50 to receive support and information on issues concerning mental health.

It is organised by Mental Health Matters, Wales to provide a meeting place for social networking and befriending others.

These facilities are being provided at Westward Community Centre, Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas, CF31 4JR on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am-3pm; also at Pencoed Miner's Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed, CF35 5PE on Tuesday and Thursdays between 11am-4pm.

Aberkenfig**Retired****Persons Club**

MEMBERS of the club have thanked **Llanharri Workingmen's Club** for inviting them to take part in a social evening, which also involved an Easter bonnet parade, in which one of its members gained first prize for her hand-made bonnet.

There was musical entertainment and an enormous buffet. This sociable club meets in the Len Evans centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig and regularly has talks.

The club meets on Wednesday afternoons

between 2pm and 4pm, and visitors are welcome.

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute

PRESIDENT Eunice Williams welcomed everyone to the recent meeting when happy birthday was sung to Pat Lewis.

Eunice introduced the speaker, Constable Steve Gorwill, who has been involved with the Scout movement for 40 years.

He is Drum Major of South Wales Police Corps of drums and band, as well as being a full time traffic officer, and works out of Police Headquarters in Bridgend.

Steve has been in the police force for 29 years, 17 of which have been with the Traffic Division and is looking forward to retiring in December this year.

South Wales Traffic Officers cover as many as 11,000 miles per month working on the M4. Duties include escorting abnormal loads over 100 tonnes delivering transplant organs to airports and escorting ambulances with seriously ill patients.

On one occasion, Steve was even able to reunite a family with Bobby the dog after an accident with their caravan.

Gillian gave a vote of thanks and invited him back for next year. The raffle was won by Maureen Pearce and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'C' was won by Irene with a colourful clown.

Eunice thanked the tea hostesses Hilary Crocombe, Marjorie Owen and Barbara Morris and wished everyone a safe journey home.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI is on May 9 at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. There will be no speaker as this is the time of year when the WI chooses its cause to bring to the special notice of the Government; this year it is to boost the number of midwives.

The competition is for a letter beginning with the letter 'R' and there will be a sales table.

New members and visitors are always welcome at the meetings of Aberkenfig WI. For further details, contact Secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933. More information, including a full programme of meetings, can also be found on the Bridgend Cobwebs website ie: www.cobwebs.co.uk under the letter 'A'.

Air Cadets help with bag packing in store



Sgt Richard Peckham ATC with some of the cadets.

EASTER Saturday saw Air Cadets and staff from Kenfig Hill, under Sgt Richard Peckham ATC, ably assisted by Sgt Kevin Gould ATC and Civilian Instructor Mr Chris Lewis, bag packing at Morrison's store in Baglan.

Thanks go to Fg Off Hannah Lawson RAFVR (T) and committee members Mrs Norris and Mr Aston who transported the cadets and brought them back home safely. Without help with transport, many of the activities the cadets take part in would not be possible.

Mrs Thomas, secretary, civilian committee thanked the staff at Morrison's for their help in organising this event. The funds raised will go towards subsidising the cadets in various activities,

such as weekend camps at MoD St. Athan, summer camp, equipment for adventure training and various other activities.

The amount raised was £986.13, the envious job of counting the money went to Mr and Mrs Aston. When Mrs Thomas banked the money it was 5p short and she would like to thank the mystery man in the bank who donated 5p!

If you are at least 13 years old, why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC? We are also looking for adult staff members and civilian committee members. We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information, contact the Squadron on parade nights, (01656 670125).

LINDSAY THOMAS
Secretary, Civilian Committee

BRIDGEND COMPANY A TOP PLACE TO WORK

BRIDGEND training provider, ACT, has been named as one of the best companies in Britain to work for.

The company, which employs more than 200 people across its centres, has made it into the prestigious Sunday Times Top 100 List of Best Small Companies to Work For, for the first time. ACT was one of only four Welsh companies with the highest ranking that received the accolade.

The list, which was established in 2001, measures staff satisfaction, and recognises businesses that have made special efforts to engage with their employees and invest

in training, personal development and staff benefits. The lists included high profile names such as Boots, Hilton Hotels and British Gas.

ACT, which has a centre in Nolton Street in Bridgend entered the top 100 list and achieved position 74. The firm, which also has Investors in People (IIP) Gold status, was included in the list after scoring highly in an anonymous staff survey.

The survey revealed that ACT employees were very satisfied with how the organisation invested in their personal growth and the effectiveness of its leadership team, which helps motivate the employees and get the

best out of them.

ACT was also rated highly on company policies, training, employee engagement and benefits, which included flexible working arrangements and 36 days annual leave. The firm invests substantially in supporting staff to undertake vocational and academic qualifications.

Andrew Cooksley, ACT Managing Director said: "Being included in the Top 100 Small Companies to Work For is a great achievement for us and me personally. I feel honoured that our staff highly value the organisation and enjoy working here."

"We place a huge emphasis on not only hiring the right staff but continually developing them and ensuring they have the tools to do their jobs to the best of their ability."

"Achieving this along with the substantial growth of the organisation over the past year has been the biggest achievement to date. The award demonstrates how we have developed over the years and it is very encouraging to know that our staff enjoy what they do and as a result we have a happy and productive workforce."

Townswomen's tribute to well loved member

PORTHCAWL Townswomen's Guild meeting was opened by chairman Dee Richardson and a minute's silence held in memory of one of a well-loved and sadly-missed member, Rene Thresher.

Donations are to be made to Save the Children charity and also to the RAF Benevolent fund in her memory.

Plans are progressing for the visit of ladies from twin guild Mansfield in May; also a second visit to the police museum.

Great interest is shown in the visit to Dewstow

gardens, so we are hoping for the sun to shine on us that day!

The speaker was Mr David Allen who whisked everyone off to the base camp at Mount Everest!

The scenery was amazing and the people so welcoming to travellers. Despite the hardship of their daily life they all looked very happy.

The next meeting will be on May 9, at All Saints Church Hall at 2pm, with a bring and buy sale.

Mrs Pamela Robson will give a talk entitled 'Dial O for the Operator'. All will be made very welcome.

FREDA RODGER

Two orphans in need of new home



Smith and Worthington

"HELLO, we are Smith and Worthington. We came into the Bridgend Adoption Centre when our previous owner passed away."

"This has made us very sad and we just want to be happy once again. We are a little shy when you first meet us, as this environment is not what we are used to, but soon after some love and attention we just can't get enough of being fussed. We just want the life we used to have. Please give us a home."

Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ. Telephone 01656 726621; Fax 01656 722012; Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

Looking back on youth theatre's latest quality production – *Billy the Musical*!



Last week's GEM included a review of the Bridgend Youth Theatre's latest musical show, *Don Black and John Barry's* version of Keith Waterhouse's novel *Billy Liar* – '*Billy, The Musical*'. Lack of space meant that there was no room to include the cast list and production credits, and these are now printed (right). The photographs feature (top left) some of the cast with Bridgend Youth Theatre director Roger Burnell (centre). Top right shows lead actor Joe Wiltshire-Smith taking centre stage, while (above) the youth theatre does its '*Tiller Girls*' routine. (Photos marked RJ are by Randell John, and KEM are by Keith E Morgan).

Billy- The Musical

Cast and production credits

CAST

Billy Fisher – Joe Wiltshire-Smith
Geoffrey Fisher – Jack Hughes-Davies
Alice Fisher – Lowri Izzard
Gran – Hannah Dando
Arthur Crabtree – Corey Bridgeman
Shadrack – Ieuan Briers
Stamp – Stefan Farmer
Councillor Duxbury – Dave Garner
Liz – Mel Stevens
Barbara – Harmony Millar/Meredith Lewis
Rita – Dayna Jeynes
Mrs Crabtree – Hannah Parker
Marilyn Monroe/Liz understudy – Rebecca Lewis
Vicar – Samuel Bennett

Olivia Pownall
 Phoebe Spence-Evans
 Rhys Jones
 Robert Davis
 Sanchia Finnigan
 Tom Herbert
 Tom Rowlands

Anthony Jones
 Billboard-Jones
Set Build/Set Painting – John Williams
Marketing – Serina Williams
Tutor/Production Assistant – Marie Izzard, Shelley Rees

Production

Director – Roger Burnell
Assistant Director – Nadine Beaton
Music Director – Mike Plowman
Choreographer – Lizzie Davies
Macmillan Stage Manager – Courtney Mortimer
Venue Stage Manager – Andrew Waller
Sound – David Spencer
Lighting – Mario Williams
Costume and Props – Kate Samways, Hazel Elstone, Meredith Lewis
Production Assistant –

Orchestra

Conductor – Michael Plowman
Flute – Viv John
Oboe – Catherine Tanner
Clarinet/Saxophone – Dick Hamer
Trumpet – Martin Rogers
French Horn – David Hughes
Trombone – Jeff Pearce
Bass Guitar – Pablo Roberts
Keyboard – Chris Williams
Percussion – Phil Hughes

Pandy Park shows passion and pride of young Fitness and young people high on the agenda as election day approaches

WHAT a delight to see youngsters from all over south Wales descend on Pandy Park last weekend for Tondur RFC's annual tournament.

Small in stature, but with all the passion and pride of any professional player, these children played their hearts out in front of proud mums and dads and other supporters.

Tondur RFC must be congratulated for putting on yet another wonderful spectacle.

Each year they ensure that the tournament is a huge success for all involved, regardless of the scorelines.

I'm always pleased to be invited to write the foreword to the tournament's programme as it's a chance to reinforce the value which Bridgend County Borough Council places on initiatives to improve fitness and wellbeing from an early age.

Young people and health is certainly high on the community's agenda at the moment if my discussions on the doorstep are anything to go by.

You've been telling me how much you value our schools but you want more

FOLLOW THE LEADER



by **MEL NOTT**
 Leader of the
 Bridgend County
 Borough Council

out of hours facilities as well. I hear that, and I'm pleased we have been able to develop many positive initiatives for youngsters so far, while having many more in the pipeline, including the extensive facilities which will be available at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (formerly Ynysawdre).

The refurbishment of the Rec and investment in our other pools and centres as a direct result of our partnership with social enterprise Halo/GLL will also mean our buildings will be much better equipped to offer people of all ages the opportunity to keep fit and active while still being very affordable – despite what some less well-informed candidates would prefer to tell you.

The other big issue on the doorstep is the economy, and it's been great to get your positive feedback on our decision to freeze council tax and our campaign to fight for our local Remploy workers. As we approach May 3, I'm hoping you as voters choose to have your say, whether it be at the polling station or via a postal vote.

It would be great for Bridgend county borough to buck the national trend of low voter turn-out and have your say on election day, regardless.

MBE AWARD: WELL DONE!

THE staff and trustees of Ty Elis (Porthcawl Counselling Service) recently gathered at the Fairways Hotel, Porthcawl, to celebrate their director's award of the MBE.

The award was given for Mrs Edwina White's service to counselling. Dr David Parry, chairman of the board of trustees, presided at the party and among those congratulating Mrs White was her long standing colleague, Mrs Madeleine Moon MP who, as Mayor of Porthcawl, in 1996 donated the original telephone and answering machine.

The party enjoyed a buffet supper followed by the Porthcawl Ukulele Band.

The counselling service which Mrs White was instrumental in setting up in 1995 is a charity which provides a much needed professional therapeutic service in the Bridgend county borough area and provides a service to the National Health Service.

The work of Ty Elis is constantly growing but without the donations and support of local organisations and individuals, the devoted and hard-working volunteer staff would be unable to continue to deliver what our community desperately needs. **KF**

CHORUS

Seniors

Ellie Morris
 Gethin Williams
 Jacob Clay
 Jade Emmet
 Kate Jones
 Katie Roberts
 Kayleigh Margetts
 Kim Robotham
 Leah Waddington
 Lilly Evans
 Matthew Jones
 Matthew Lee
 Megan Rose-Evans
 Samuel Derarge
 Thomas Lewis

Juniors

Adam Wolsey
 Aimee Morris
 Ashling Thomas
 Bethan Rees
 Charlotte Evans-Jones
 Chloe Atkinson
 Ciaran Davies
 Conor Farrell-John
 Emily James
 Erin Thomas-Parker
 Evan Aitchison
 Evan Laidler
 Ffion Jefferies
 Ffion Lawrence-Jones
 George Neson
 Georgina Anderson
 Gethin Phillips
 Hannah Robertson
 Holly Lewis
 Iwan Paver
 Jack Davies
 Jeri Grabham
 Kate Leyland
 Kiera Johnson-Cooper
 Laura Underhill
 Lauren Bailey
 Lauren Coates
 Lewis Scott
 Lile Smith
 Loren Taylor
 Meghan Evans
 Michaela Sellick
 Nathan Williams
 Neve Thomas
 Oat Jenner

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Your chance to share the local news

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, April 25, include the music group with Gareth and John; beginners welcome.

Feel free to bring an instrument from 2pm-3pm, and then the reading group will be from 3pm-4pm. There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm-5pm.

Gateway project

KPC Youth have received some funding to work with young people aged 16 to 24 years of age who are not in education, training or employment.

They would like to work with these people to help them in gaining employment, building on their CV, confidence and motivation. To be eligible, you must be within

this age group, not receiving JSA/ESA, or be in employment.

However, you can be in part time education up to 16 hours a week. KPC can offer accredited qualifications through the Agored Cymru "Step Up" Programme, counselling sessions (if appropriate to your needs) and one to one support work to develop your personal and social skills.

The course runs on a Thursday between 10am-3pm, with a free lunch provided.

On Friday afternoons, Changing Tracks attend KPC to host a 'Work Club' for ages 16 to 24. They are able to help with job searches, career choices, CVs and applications and give individual support.

This is done on a drop in basis, between 1pm-3pm when it restarts on Friday, April 27.

For further details, contact KPC Youth, next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend, CF33 6AB, or ring 01656 749219/745399.

What a party that was for Maisie (80)



ABOVE: Maisie with her two grandchildren.

BRIDGEND Stroke Club has enjoyed many events recently, one of which was an 80th birthday party at the Fairway Hotel, Porthcawl.

Maisie Manley had a superb party with at least 150 guests of family and friends. The tables were set out immaculately and the carvery lunch was delicious!

The Porthcawl Ukulele Band played on their four-stringed guitars dressed in Hawaiian shirts.

Maisie's son Jason and daughter-in-law Joanne organised the whole event on her behalf.

The interesting speaker, Mr David Richards, who is a member of Porthcawl

Lions Club, was once a high-ranking officer of the Metropolitan Police and gave an insight into his demanding role.

Another interesting talk by Mr David Salter, a retired school teacher, focused on the sending of postcards, 'What the postman saw,' going back 100 years.

Stan Stennett and his wife Betty joined members for lunch at the Rest Home and Stan cheered us up by playing the guitar and singing some old melodies – a good old sing song!

Once again, the Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to thank everyone who supports us. Don't forget to get your blood pressure checked!

BARBARA MATTHEWS



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Easter bonnet

THE Easter bonnet parade on Good Friday held at the Luncheon Club in the Talbot Community Centre, was a very happy affair.

It was good to see so many people going to the centre for a turkey lunch and enjoying Easter together. There were so many fabulous hats on show that it was a difficult decision for the judges to pick a winner.

However, they eventually chose the creation made by regular diner, Ada Howells. Thanks to Roger Went, the staff and members of the Youth Club, at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

Parish news

LENTEEN lunches in aid of Motor Neuron Disease research went tremendously well and were a huge success. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of those who organised them and to those who went. A fantastic £507.20 was raised through the lunches and donations.

Velindre chicks – Velindre does tremendous work and this year £240 was raised through selling 'Velindre Easter chicks'. Many thanks go to Ceri and the ladies for organising this in support of the hospital.

Food Bank – The Parish is still collecting food for people who are in real need. There are baskets in both St James' Church, Pyle and St Mary Magdalene Church, Mawdlam.

Open days – This year, St Mary Magdalene open days will take place on May 18, 19 and 20.

For all details of events and activities in the parish, ring Rev Dr Duncan Walker, on 01656 740500/07766 710373, or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

Community council

THE following was raised at a recent Pyle Community Council meeting:

Parking – Concern was shown that following the implementation of the correct signage and markings outside the dentist surgery, there has been an increase of parking on the double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road below the bus shelter. A letter is to be sent to BCBC with a copy to the police.

Festival week – Coun Gina Hooper reported that plans for the summer festival are at a well advanced stage. She was also happy to report that there had been an increase in the number of organisations attending. The Clerk, Harold Phillips, also reported

that he had received official notification of approval to use the Croft Coch Fields for the fun day.

Litter bins – The installation of two litter bins in the vicinity of Hazel Grove, Pyle and one in Moriah Place, Kenfig Hill will take place within the next two weeks.

Heathbridge Miners' Square

Coun Paula James reported on a meeting held with the Chair, Coun Kay John, the Clerk, Harold Phillips, and representatives of the Groundwork Trust Wales, who were informed of the immediate plans for the 'Heathbridge Miners' Square', and the proposed long term plan for the regeneration of the communities of Pyle and Kenfig Hill.

After formal discussions, Coun James and the Clerk took the representatives of Groundwork Trust Wales to the various sites which have been preliminary identified.

Coun James also reported that she had received verbal confirmation of a successful application to the BCBC Fund for Town and Community Council Projects. The Clerk reported that the application to the Awards for All Lottery Fund had passed its first check and the final decision will be made within 30 days.

The Collwyn – It was resolved to place a bench at the Collwyn in addition to the one being placed at the junction of Woodlands Drive and Waunbant Road. Both benches will be placed on hard standing. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

Litter – A letter is to be sent to Cynffig Comprehensive School regarding the increasing amount of litter being left around at lunch times by pupils when visiting the various food outlets in Kenfig Hill.

Kenfig Hill

Easter Vestry: A cheese and wine evening will be held at St Coleman's on Monday, April 23 at 7pm, tickets are £3.

This year's summer fashion show is to be held in Kenfig Hill RFC on Friday, April 27, at 7pm; tickets £4.

Pisgah chapel

A PREACHING service will be conducted this evening by the Rev Dafydd H Edwards at 7pm to celebrate Pisgah Chapel Centenary.

Fine turnout for the Kidney Research walk



REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

ORGANISED by Jean Schofield, the annual Kidney Research Wales 'Walk for Life' took place again this year, with walkers starting and finishing at The Seagull public house in Nottage. The walk was to Coney Beach funfair and back. It was started by Nicholas Lloyd, who cut the ribbon. He is the latest person to have a transplant in Porthcawl, after his mother donated a kidney last September, and is fit and well as a result. As usual, Alan Williams led the walkers, although this year he did the gentlemanly thing by letting a lady take the lead for a few yards! As usual, Alan was first back at The Seagull public house.

Easter bunny walkers help out the Sandville!



ABOVE:

Every Easter, local woman Christine Glanville and her friends set out on a sponsored walk to raise funds for the Sandville Self-Help centre.

They were making their way along the coastal path when local photographer KEITH E MORGAN was passing with his ever-ready camera!

Police briefing on stray horses

REGIONAL AM Byron Davies has met police to discuss problems being caused in the Pen-y-Fai-Llangewydd area by straying horses.

Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, met Supt Paul James, who is heading up a special task force set up by South Wales Police to tackle the issues raised by problems with straying horses across the region.

Mr Davies, a former police officer, said he was "pleased" by actions outlined by Supt James: "All the problems which residents have raised with me, including those of intimidation and criminal damage, were known to police and moves are afoot to deal with any criminality involved."

"Animal welfare issues were also discussed and these are being tackled."

"I left the meeting satisfied that police are taking the problem very seriously and that robust measures are being put in place across the south Wales police area and beyond, because this is a cross-border problem which affects other police forces and council areas."

Road crash

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

They added: "He was a kind and caring lad, with an ability to be liked by all those who came into contact with him."

"As a brother, he was a brother like no other, the bond with his sisters was special – yes they had their days, but they were very few and he would do, and did do, everything he could to be there for them."

"Damien had an artistic talent, not only in his ability to draw but also in his imagination – he could see the world from a different perspective and it showed in his photographs, drawings and sketches."

The collision occurred at the junction on Heronston Lane and Ewenny Road, Bridgend. A purple/blue and orange Honda motorcycle was in collision with a white old style Volkswagen camper van.

Police are continuing to appeal for witnesses to the collision, and ask anyone who may have seen the manner in which either vehicle was being driven before the incident to contact them.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police Roads Policing Unit in Gwaelod y Garth, Cardiff on 02920 633438 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Damien Williamson, who died on Monday following a road traffic accident.

NEWS FROM THE PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

PRESENTATION EVENING A CHANCE TO LOOK BACK ON VERY BUSY YEAR!

PENCOED Comprehensive School's annual prize giving ceremony was held recently.

A spokesperson reports: This was a lovely evening, with current and former pupils, parents and guests enjoying the celebration of our young people's academic, musical and sporting achievements as well as being rewarded for personal effort and improvement.

Thank you to all of those who took part in the ceremony, especially our guest speaker Mr Alastair Reynolds, a former pupil of the school, who gave an inspiring speech to pupils encouraging them all to aim to achieve their ambitions in life.

The musical showcase on March 27 was a resounding success. Parents and guests alike enjoyed a wonderful concert with items ranging from the classical to the modern, with our talented young people taking the stage as individuals, as well as in groups.

One of the highlights was the Rhythm Company, who used their chairs and drumsticks in a very novel and exciting way delighting everyone in the audience. The second part of the showcase was an excerpt from *Miss Saigon* which displayed the acting and musical talents of our pupils to great effect.

Many thanks to everyone associated with the event – staff, performers and technical team. This concert, along with the hugely successful eisteddfodau held earlier in the term, provided a marvellous celebration of our young people's wide-ranging skills and talent.

This year's school show, *Disco Inferno*, will be held during the summer term. Rehearsals are well underway, including an intensive residential visit to Danycoed Educational Centre in Swansea, planned for a weekend early in the summer term.

During the Easter holidays, 40 of our pupils will be spending a week in Austria on the school's annual skiing trip.

During the spring term, a number of pupils visited different locations as part of their course work. These included year-12 geography pupils who visited Dale in Pembrokeshire, year-12 travel and tourism pupils who visited Llancaich Fawr, and year-13 geography pupils who visited the

Aberthaw centre for energy and the environment. More than 100 pupils also enjoyed a visit to Bristol organised by the English department last February for the stage production of *Blood Brothers*.

Three of the school's public speakers, Megan Maunder, Carrie Gwyther and Matthew Cuthbert continue to do well. Further to their success at county level last December, the three of them progressed to The Welsh National finals in Crickhowell and performed superbly.

During last term, the older people who come to school regularly for their lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays have been spending some time socialising and playing educational games with Class 7-1.

Both the younger and older generation clearly enjoy these occasions, learning a lot about how school and life in general differs now to how it was 50-60 years ago.

Congratulations also to all those who take part in the regular rugby, football, hockey and netball matches.

During March, the Pencoed Comprehensive School year-8 rugby league squad was lucky enough to attend the media launch of the Rugby League World Cup at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff. Mark Jones of Wales RL invited the 2011 Welsh Cup winners to be part of the photo shoot for the event, due to their previous success in local and national competition.

On arrival in Cardiff, Mark presented the boys with a Welsh Rugby League jersey each. They were then taken on a short tour of the stadium before setting up camp in the officials' changing rooms.

After a briefing from event organisers, the boys were invited to make their way through the players' tunnel and to take a seat in the stand.

Fantastic weather was the order of the day as first the assembled members of the media arrived on the pitch, before representatives from both the Rugby Football League and the Wales Rugby League followed them.

While the likes of Wales coach, Iestyn Harries, his English counterpart Steve McNamara and WRU chief executive Roger Lewis were interviewed by Sky Sports, Pencoed captain Tommy Refell and last year's outstanding player, Matthew Willmott, took the field with Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones.



ABOVE: The headteacher, David George, and guests at the presentation evening.



PICTURED, ABOVE: Year-7 and year-8 pupils at Pencoed Comprehensive School, with their senior citizen guests.

Family Information Service annual fun day Sporting touch as Bridgend opts for an Olympic theme

THE annual exhibition and fun day took place recently at the Bridgend Recreation Centre, and with an exciting build-up to London 2012 in mind, an 'Olympic' theme was chosen.

Organisers and stand holders, along with many of the children, dressed in their sports gear to add to the fun.

Organisers welcomed back Lee Jukes from BridgeFM, who got the day off to a good start by opening the fun day. He introduced the deputy Mayor, Coun Marlene Thomas, who welcomed the children and their families to the event.

As BridgeFM were broadcasting live from the event, Lee was soon playing requests and interviewing stand holders.

The deputy Mayor and other dignitaries who visited throughout the day were impressed by the variety of activities available. They were amazed by the number of children having fun and the amount of information for families available from the many agencies and services supporting the Fun Day.

The children took part in art and craft activities making

medals and Olympic torches. They had their faces painted, practiced their driving skills with the Krazy Karts and had fun on the bouncy castles. Every year organisers build on the success of the event and introduce some different aspects to the day.

The children took part in sport activities provided by the council's Active Young People's department; there was a baby sign taster session on offer, as well as an old favourite, the drumming workshop, and much more.

Aaliyah, Megan and Lewis said: "The fun day is always lots of fun with lots of different things to do."

"We really enjoyed the go karts and learning about how much sugar was in the foods we eat and drink. We also enjoyed making Olympic torches and racing with the torches once we had made them. We can't wait until next year!"

Will Davies, of Krazy Karts, agreed that the event was well attended and grows bigger and better every year. He stated: "This year's event



ABOVE: The deputy Mayor's welcome.

seemed very relaxed, we were very busy, it was a very pleasant day". Aaron Meli, of Slapping Skins, congratulated the Family Information Service on another successful event and said that: "the drumming workshop was great again this year".

It is estimated that over 2,000 visited the event throughout the day.

The feedback from evaluation forms and games that encouraged even the very young children to give their views, proved that the day was a great success.

Visit www.bridgendfamily-info.org.uk.



ABOVE: FIS stand kids.

Jazz festival is now a welcome fixture in Porthcawl's entertainment calendar

All images taken by **Louis Milburn.**
www.louismilburn.co.uk (01656 740721).

ORGANISERS of the Porthcawl Jazz Festival, which took place last weekend (April 13-15) say that they are pleased with the response and will be back again next year.

Festival director Wayne Warlow told

The GEM that this year there had been 22 performances in various venues, featuring 20 bands of varying size.

He said: "At this stage, it looks as if we have passed the break-even point, which is great."

"The object of the exercise is not to make a big profit, although it would be nice to do

so." He continued: "I don't think I received one negative comment about the festival programme. In fact, there were many complimentary ones."

The festival in recent years, under Wayne's direction, has opted for a wide range of jazz styles, from Dixieland to modern and Wayne feels that this is no paying off.

Certainly, more and more local venues are joining in and putting on events.

He said: "Apart from the main hall and stage door in the Grand Pavilion, there were performances at the Porthcawl Hotel, at Trecco bay, and at the Brentwood Hotel, which was quite a focal point."

"The Jazz Sunday service at Trinity Church was once again very popular, and the open air concert at Newton Green went well."

He added that it had been a chance for people to see some talented up-and-coming interna-



ABOVE (left to right): Festival director Wayne Warlow and wife Eve, band leader John Miller, committee member Chris Smart, and Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Barbara Stubbs and her husband Bill.

tional artists, Gabrielle Ducombe and her Quartet, from France, Michael Janisch and the New York Standards Quartet, and the BD Lenz Trio, also from New York.

Headline acts included the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and the John Miller Orchestra.

Wayne added: "I really enjoyed the hour of music from the Porthcawl Rock School. It was great to see so many talented young people, who were all local."

PHILIP IRWIN



'Jazz on the promenade'.



ABOVE: Wayne Warlow takes a break from his admin duties and joins a band.

Titanic display on show in Maesteg library this month

MAESTEG Library is hosting a Titanic display throughout April to commemorate the centenary of the ship sinking during its maiden voyage.

The library is exhibiting old newspaper articles, posters, photographs and books covering the Titanic disaster, ranging from the creation and launch of the ship, to its tragic collision with the iceberg, to films and novels that have been inspired by the event.

Also on show is a scale model of the ship and two large wall displays, depicting the remains of the liner on the ocean floor and a reconstruction of a section of its hull.

A number of materials about the Titanic are available at the library, including the feature films, a number of books and access to archives about the disaster. Over 1,500 people died as a result of the ship sinking, which remains one of the most significant nautical disasters in history.

For more information visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries, or call the library on 01656 754857.



Scale model of the Titanic.

Praise for the Assembly Government's lip-reading tutors scheme

A REGIONAL AM has welcomed plans by the Welsh Government to boost the number of lip-reading tutors in Wales.

Suzi Davies, Welsh Conservative Regional AM for south Wales west, was at the cross-party deaf group meeting in north Wales when the extra funding of £202,000 was announced.

She said that this was a wonderful boost for deaf and hard of hearing people in Wales who can easily become socially isolated because of their disability.

"We have half a million people in Wales who have hearing difficulties," she said. "So anything that helps them is welcome. This money will train 12 lip reading tutors across Wales and also fund a programme of classes where those wishing to learn lip reading can attend."

"Many of us will be surprised at how much hearing we can lose as we get older and lip

reading is especially useful for people who have lived much of their lives being able to hear

"But this development should not be at the expense of teaching people British Sign Language (BSL)."

"Many people, deaf from infancy, may have grown up with this as their only language. Yet children with a deaf parent or hearing parents with a deaf child still find it difficult to access family friendly BSL training."

"I have completed a course in very basic sign language myself. It's not easy but I've already used it out campaigning. Even though I probably made a bit of a mess of it, the person I was speaking to said this was the first time that someone had tried signing with her and she really appreciated it."

"It is important that all those with an interest can access classes to learn both skills as long as lip reading is not seen as a simpler alternative to BSL."



ABOVE: Clare Hingott, who sang with the Graham Watkins Quartet.



ABOVE: The Glenn Miller legacy is being kept alive by his nephew John, who leads the John Miller Orchestra.

Can you give Elvis a home?

THE GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

THIS WEEK:

Elvis is a one-year-old cross-breed. He is a big softie, and just adores company, be it human or canine... the centre reports.

As he is just a puppy at heart, he can forget himself and be a bit boisterous, but he is having training in this area, and is a quick learner.

He is fine with children, but due to

his size and playful nature he would be best with children aged eight and over.

He is looking for a loving, active and playful home, and will be sure to bring some fun to the family!

If you are interested in Elvis, please call 01656 725219 or visit us at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend.

We are open Tuesday-Sunday, 12pm-4pm, and have introduced late night opening on Wednesday only, when you can visit and meet dogs until 8pm.



First Minister takes a tour of Llys Ton centre



BRIDGEND Assembly Member and Wales' First Minister, Carwyn Jones, was joined by councillors for his first visit to the newly-unveiled £5million Extra Care centre on Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill.

The First Minister enjoyed a tour of the facilities and said afterwards: "I was extremely impressed with both the facilities and atmosphere at Llys Ton and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to chat to residents and staff."

Community councillor Pauline James said: "This visit has been a wonderful opportunity for Carwyn to hear first hand the tremendous value and importance of Llys Ton, which enables people to remain independent and more active in their later years."

"We are very grateful to residents and V2C staff for extending their usual warm welcome for this special visit."

The First Minister is pictured during his visit with staff and the rest of the tour party at Llys Ton.

Grand Slam star to open new housing estate at Wood Green

WALES' Grand Slam winner Jamie Roberts is set to launch Bellway Homes Wales' new residential development in Bridgend.

Fresh from the Six Nations victory, the rugby star will be meeting visitors and signing autographs at Wood Green on Saturday, April 28, from 11am-2pm.

Wood Green is a brand new community within Cefn Glas of two, three, four and five-bedroom quality homes – making it an ideal place to live for both families and first-time buyers.

Denise Swift, sales manager for Bellway Homes Wales, said: "Wood Green is an exciting new residential development which is why we wanted to launch it in style – and what better way to do so than with rugby hero Jamie Roberts."

The semi-rural feel offers buyers a great location but with the benefit of being close to Bridgend town centre, local schools and with good transport links such as the nearby M4 motorway.

A new home at Wood Green is available from £89,995-£169,995, with a selection on offer from just £100,295 on Bellway's shared equity scheme exclusively for first-time buyers.

Sharp Start allows buyers to secure a brand new home for just 85 per cent of the price and only needing to raise a five per cent deposit.

The remaining 15 per cent of the property value is loaned from Bellway interest-free for the first five years, so buying a new home has never been more affordable.

Road safety move to curb 'rat run' drivers

FUNDING approved by the Welsh Assembly for road safety measures in Coychurch, has been welcomed by Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, who was invited to the village by resident Kay Rowlands.

She is among campaigners calling for action to stop traffic using the village as a rat run to avoid the lights at Coychurch roundabout.

A Community Action Plan had been submitted to the Welsh Assembly asking for funding for things like provision of pavements and installation of pedestrian crossings.

Mr Davies wrote in support of the application and was delighted

to hear this week that £180,000 has been allocated for the work.

"I was initially told that this scheme was listed sixth in order of priority, so I am very pleased that somebody at the Assembly has looked at it again and put it at the top of the list."

"I want to congratulate the community council and villagers for their work in putting the plan together."

"There is certainly a need for action to tackle traffic problems in Coychurch."

Mr Davies added that he has also raised the issue of speeding with Supt Paul James of Bridgend police, who had promised to make it a tasking priority for his officers.

Addiction: aid for families is welcomed

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has welcomed news that support for families affected by parental substance misuse is being rolled out to people living in Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

The Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, was pleased that families living in these areas will now be eligible for support from integrated family support services.

She said: "Families will be able to access a highly-skilled team of multi-agency professionals to work intensively with children and entire families affected by substance misuse including alcohol and drugs."

"We all know the devastating impact on families that can result from one parent being addicted to drugs or alcohol so I welcome all attempts to alleviate the effects on children particularly."

The scheme will be extended to all three local authorities within South Wales West, plus the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

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Multi Award Winning Teaching Agency

Left and right take the centre stage!

TRADITIONAL political adversaries, local MP, Alun Cairns and the Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls will join forces to run the London Marathon this weekend.

Alun Cairns is running to raise money for Mind in Barry and Atal y Fro, (Vale Women's Aid) while Ed Balls is running for Whiz Kids based in Morley and Outwood.

"Although we regularly disagree across the House of Commons Chamber, we were both keen to show cross-party support for our local charities," Mr Cairns said.

"The number of MPs planning



ABOVE:
The Vale MP lines up with the Shadow Chancellor.

to run the Marathon has dropped off because of injuries and time commitments, but I am delighted

that some of us have managed to stay well and to fit in the training.

"Mind does so much for people with mental health problems, ranging from a shoulder to cry on and help with benefit applications. We have worked together to help influence legislation for the benefit people with mental health needs.

"I have also had the privilege of seeing the first class support offered by Atal y Fro, the Vale's Women's Aid. They really come into their own when some domestic violence victims are at their most vulnerable.

"If anyone wishes to sponsor me, they can do so on my website or simply by contacting my office in Barry on 01446 403814."

RECORD SHOP HAS 'PURE NOSTALGIA' FOR SALE!

RETRO VIBE MUSIC independent record store will open at 9.30am this Saturday, April 21 in Barry.

Owners Claire Williams and Mark Owen, lifelong music fans, say they wanted to create the feel of an 'old school' record shop at 8A Vere Street.

"Buying records is so exciting and the trend for vinyl records has returned," they said.

"People want more than just a downloaded file name and music can be so much more than just a listening experience. A record gives you something to look at;

plus the sound is 'in the moment' and organic - part of the charm is the sound as the needle hits the vinyl.

"Not all records were put onto CD and so we have some vintage records which you may not have heard for many years.

"We have tried to create a shop which has the same feel record shops used to have, plus you have the option to try before you buy. We are not precious about what we stock, we have 'all kinds of music for all kinds of people', a bit of everything!

"A selection of our stock is for sale, but our warehouse has at least 60,000 records which are

ready for us to sort out and catalogue to eventually sell in the shop or online.

"We have found some real gems! Plus if you are stick for a gift or have friends or family who love music, but no longer have a record player, and some of the record sleeves are iconic, like works of art and look fantastic in a frame, a great original gift that won't break the bank!

"Vinyl records are a part of social history and all of our records have been pre-owned and have a tale to tell. We like to think that we sell a lot more than just music, we sell pure nostalgia! Call us on 01446 734483."

'Airport is a plane spotters' nightmare'

HAVING been employed by a few holiday charter companies as a pilot at Cardiff Airport for the last 25 years, I wish to applaud the letter in The GEM on March 29 written by David and Anne Watson, of Llantwit Major, who accurately described the decline in passenger numbers at Cardiff Airport, compared to the upsurge in passenger figures for Bristol Airport.

They also mentioned the fact that Vueling (a reputable Spanish low cost carrier) was coming to Cardiff this month.

Additional flights from any operator are very welcome, even though it would be more beneficial if a UK carrier came to Cardiff, because more jobs would be created within Wales.

I have good reason to believe that two UK airlines attempted to negotiate a reduction of passenger handling fees with Cardiff Airport management recently with a view to operating out of Cardiff.

I understand these discussions failed, with the airport not offering a reduction in these fees, which are the second highest in the UK.

Would it not be in the public interest if the Welsh Government negotiated with the airport owners to explore the possibility of finding some common ground, whereby the people of Wales would benefit from the prosperity of more aviation activity?

At present, the situation at Cardiff Airport can best be described as a 'plane spotters' nightmare'.

Philip Clarke,

Barry
• The GEM asked Steve Hodgetts, Planning and Commercial Director at Cardiff Airport, to comment on the situation. This is his response.

'Airport charges not a problem'

I was intrigued by Phillip Clarke's letter, which highlights a common theme and misconception. Airlines are the key to passengers using the air-

port and they control the routes, frequencies and prices.

Since bmbaby decided to leave Cardiff, we have pitched the opportunity to more than 30 airlines, offering substantial incentives and discounts and only Vueling has been prepared to grasp that opportunity for this year.

The airport does not provide ground handling, as per European Union regulations, so those costs are outside our control but, like all airports with spare capacity, we discount our charges for new services and growth.

So let's lay the myth once and for all that charges are a problem or that we would not negotiate with any airline.

It is also important to state that Vueling, a carrier with a very high profile in Spain and across Europe, can still benefit the Welsh economy, and Welsh jobs, through inbound tourism which they are strongly focused on.

Titanic lesson in health and safety

I HAVE been watching the various episodes on television about the Titanic, this year being the sad 100th anniversary of the 1,500 lives lost.

It is now a recorded fact that cutting corners in safety margins for profits was a factor in the Titanic's ultimate demise, as well as the several young lives lost among its construction workforce during its construction.

Today, with our advanced health and safety regulations, and provided those regulations are not evaded, a ship like that could well survive disaster.

Unfortunately, the Coalition government are making noises to undo those regulations and return us to the days of the Titanic, for the benefit of the privileged few, and they may well succeed if we let them.

Do we want to go back to those days? I certainly do not. Marc Delaney, Cowbridge

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£74.7 MILLION OVER NEXT SEVEN YEARS

Council unveils plans for investing in its schools

THE Vale Council is set to allocate a sum of £74.7 million to be spent on schools over the next seven years.

The proposal was being considered by the cabinet of the Vale Council yesterday (Wednesday).

In a report, members were told that the Vale Council's 21st Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme (the original SOP) had been submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2010, and at the time the Welsh Government was funding 70 per cent of the budget.

However, in July 2011 the Minister For Education and Skills changed the formula, and the Welsh Government contribution was reduced to 50 per cent. For councils such as the Vale, it was back to the drawing board.

The council's revised submission was successful in December 2012, and a conditional offer was received from the Welsh Government (subject to the approval of business cases for each scheme and statutory approvals where applicable) for £10.48 million of government for a £20.96 million project to enhance various schools in Llantwit Major and Barry.

In addition, the council expects to get up to £33,360,650 of Welsh Government grant funding for the Penarth Learning Community (PLC), which represents a 70 per cent grant support rate, as the council secured this before the rules changed.

The cabinet was told that the PLC remains on programme and, subject to planning, construction should start on site during autumn 2012.

The report says that in recent years, it has completed the £22 million remodelling of Cowbridge Comprehensive School and just over £2 million has been invested in the feasibility and design of Penarth Learning Community.

Now, the council is putting forward a proposal to spend a total of £74.73 million during the period 2012/13 to 2019/20.

This includes the aforementioned £33 million for the Penarth Learning Community, plus £14 million from the council's own resources – a total of around £47.16 million.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

The £20.96 million for schools in Barry and Llantwit will also be spent during this seven-year period.

Finally, the council also plans to spend a total of £6.6 million on general asset renewal and improvements – again over the seven-year period, making a total of £74 million.

Asset renewal includes replacing boilers, roofs and windows, and other similar items.

The Penarth Learning Community is, clearly, the biggest project, and bringing St Cyres School, together with the three special schools of Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and Ysgol Maes Dyfan together one campus is a major undertaking.

In fact, the report to cabinet reveals that the floor area of St Cyres and the new SEN School will be quite similar.

St Cyres is planned to have a floorspace of 11,850 sq metres, will the SEN school will have 7,950 sq metres.

However, there will also be a 'respite facility' for pupils at the SEN school to stay overnight, with 16 beds, and that will have a floorspace of 1,475 sq metres.

The number of pupils, however, is very different, with St Cyres having 1,280, and the SEN school having 205.

The new St Cyres School is scheduled to open in October 2014, and the SEN school in the New Year, 2015.

Looking at the £20 million that will be spent in Llantwit and Barry, the biggest portion will go to remodel Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, in a £12 million project that should happen between 2015 and 2019.

Ysgol Nant Talwg in Barry is set to be completed between 2014 and 2016, and the cost of that is an estimated £2.4 million.

In Llantwit, a sum of £1.79 million has been set aside to complete the new Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant.

This school has just finished its first year, and will be expanding as new year groups start. The extra work is due to take place between 2015 and 2017.

Finally, a sum of £4.25 million has been set aside to "remodel two primary schools in the Barry cluster".

This will take place between 2014/15 and 2016/17, and the reorganisation aims to "reduce surplus capacity, and increase Welsh medium provision to meet continued increasing parental demand".

HUNT FOR SPECTACLE WEARER!

ACTRESS Helen Flanagan has launched Specsavers' nationwide search for the Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2012.

Helen, who has worn glasses since the age of nine, said: "I first realised I needed to wear glasses when I couldn't see the whiteboard at school."

"I was delighted, as I was always nagging my mum to get me a pair. I love trying out new looks with my glasses. They bring out a different side to me."

Now in their fifth year of supporting Kidscape, Specsavers will donate £1 for every eligible compe-

titution entry to the charity, as well as all proceeds from a high profile auction led by Specsavers ambassador Gok Wan, which will take place at the competition final in London in October.

One local specs wearer could follow in the footsteps of Danielle Piction, from Barry who was crowned Wales' Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2011.

Regional finalists will be announced in June and the grand final will be held in London in October 2012.

To enter, visit any Specsavers store or log on to www.specsavers.co.uk/competition.

ON THEIR MARKS FOR TY HAFAN!



PICTURED: (Left to right) Matt Pritchard, Jack Thomas (16) and Daignton.

FAMILIES and staff at Ty Hafan will be cheering on their champion runners taking part in the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 22.

These include Matthew Pritchard of Dirty Sanchez fame, who seems to have been in constant training for events over the last couple of years, from which Ty Hafan has benefited, including the Bolton Iron Man Challenge in July 2011, a spokeswoman said.

He has also visited some of his young fans when they have been staying at the hospice, much to their delight.

Journalist Simon Farrington has also been putting in the miles in and around his home in the Vale, and has tested his stamina by taking part in a couple of half marathon events, as well as a clocking up a 20-mile training run.

Chris Thorne, originally from Cardiff, currently works in Dubai in the private office of HH Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He will be flying to the UK before the event.

Others taking part for Ty Hafan are South Wales Police officer of 23 years, Jonathan Evans from Bridgend and Gary Phillips from Swansea.

Ross Matthews from Barry was first on the reserve list, so when another Ty Hafan runner broke his foot he was immediately contacted and has been frantically training and raising sponsorship.

For more information about Ty Hafan visit www.tyhafan.org.

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Out and About with The GEM

Vale MP's advice surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance this Friday, April 20, at the following locations:

9.30am-11am at the Lee Hall, Britway Road,

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

Don't forget the next event for lovely crafts and yummy snacks

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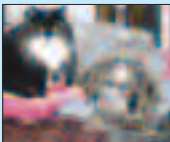
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Dinas Powys; 12pm-1.30pm at Morrisons, Penny Way, Barry; 2.30pm-4pm at the Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Choir's fayre

Barry Ladies Choir spring fayre takes place at Wenvoe Community Centre on Saturday, April 21, at 10.30am-12.30pm.

Stalls include plants, toys, cakes. Admission 50p adults, children no charge. Free tea, coffee, squash with refills available.

Scouts' parade

THE 11th Barry Sea Scout Group will hold a parade on Sunday, April 22 (St George's Day).

It will march from King Square at 10.30am to St Mary's Church.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale is holding a charity coffee morning at Committee Room 2, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 24 at 10.30am-12 noon.

All proceeds will go to the Act for Fun charity.

Flat Holm talk

AT Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's next meeting on Wednesday, April 25 in the Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm, Mr Peter Sampson, vice-chairman of the Flat Holm Society, will be giving a slide show on their work at Flat Holm Island.

Just five miles from Barry, this tiny island is a different world, with a wealth of history and wildlife. Admission, refreshments and raffle, free. All are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend. Contact secretary, Sylvia Geary, on 01446 792087.

Clairvoyant service

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is holding a special clairvoyant flower service on April 25 at 7pm with Robert Beddoes; doors open 6.30pm, admission £3.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, April 25 at 11am, 'Stalling Down and Aberthin Meadows', five-mile extended walk starting at the Hare and Hounds, Aberthin.

Cancer Research quiz

BARRY committee of Cancer Research Cymru are holding a quiz night to raise funds into research on April 25, at Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, at 8pm.

Entrance fee is £2 per person, payable at the door. Everyone welcome.

Gardening advice

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be the annual general meeting and seedling evening to be held in the Lesser Hall on Thursday, April 26 at 7.30pm.

Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next presentation is *My Week With Marilyn* (Cert 15) which will be shown on Thursday, April 26 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), an employee of Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh), documents the tense interaction between Olivier and Marilyn Monroe (Oscar-nominated Michelle Williams) during a London production of *The*

Prince and the Showgirl.

Tickets £3 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Eisteddfod concert

A CHORAL evening with Dowlais Male Voice Choir, Gower College Swansea Ensemble, Daisy Evans, soprano and Sian Evans (BBC Radio) will take place at Bradenstoke Hall, St Donat's Castle on April 27 at 7.30pm.

Proceeds in aid of the National Eisteddfod appeal.

Tickets £15. Contact Glenys Bellin on 01656 649085.

Clock appeal

MARK LLEWELLYN, soloist, presents an evening of entertainment replicating hits by Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and David Alexander; plus rock and pop disco and raffle at the Llantwit Major Rugby Club on April 28 at 7.30pm.

All funds go to 'help keep our clock ticking'.

Tickets £10, available from the Town Hall and the Rugby Club.

Screening advice

A SCREENING engagement practitioner from Public Health Wales will be available to give information and advice on breast and bowel screening on April 28, at The Senior Health Shop Age Concern, 38 Holton Road, Barry (10am-12 noon).

Information leaflets will be available. Contact 01446 732385 for further details.

Village rallies

to Lesotho

AN afternoon tea and crafts will be held in St Hilary village hall between 3pm and 5pm on Sunday, May 6.

All funds raised will be donated to St Garards School in Lesotho, Africa, and teachers from the school will also be present.

To celebrate May Day, there will be dancing around the maypole on the village green at 5pm and at 8pm there will be a quiz in the Bush Inn.

Hunt auction

A Glamorgan Hunt auction takes place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebetyn, Llansannor, CF71 7RX, at 7pm on Friday, May 11. Viewing from 4pm.

Equestrian items, prints, books, clothing and items of general interest. Free entry. Telephone 01446 760477.

Revealing portraits

A BETWEEN the Lines exhibition by Barry artist Glyn Pooley "draws the community together through the medium of portraits through art" at Cardiff Bay.

It aims to give an insight into what motivates individuals who actively contribute to the community and how they inspire others.

There are two showings – at the Senedd building on May 7-11 and at the Pierhead building on June 1-28.

Baby & Toddler Group



Two sessions 9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30pm
enquiries@catchupandplay.co.uk
or call Sarah on 0789 444 5898

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR COMING EVENTS:

www.catchupandplay.co.uk

New baby & toddler group in Llantwit Major...
www.facebook.com/Catchup.and.Play

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POINT-TO-POINT
Saturday, 21st April

Redlands Farm,
BONVILSTON CF5 6TQ

– First race 2pm –

Featuring the 3M 4F Welsh Point-to-Point Grand National Bars, Caterers and Bookmakers in attendance.

For further information please contact Mr Phil Williams
02920 880798
0779 915 5463
email: phillip.williams@btinternet.com



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Pontypridd, nr Cardiff
(029) 2083 1658
www.adventurewales.co.uk

£22.50 per 45 mins £25 per hour

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, is holding a surgery on Friday, April 20, from 4pm to 6pm at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry. No appointment is necessary

Family service at All Saints

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service this Sunday, April 22, at 10am, on the theme of encountering the

risen Lord Jesus. The worship will be suitable for all ages and refreshments are served after the service. All are welcome.



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Saturday 21st April

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Friday 27th Friday

Tracey Spencer
Female Vocalist

Saturday 28th April

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

ONLY VALE KIDS ALOUD PROJECT

(ar gychwyn canu)

GYDA'R Eisteddfod yn prysur agosau, mae ysgolion ardal Bro Morgannwg wedi derbyn rhagor o wybodaeth am brosiect cyffrous Only Vale Kids ALOUD, sy'n rhan o'r paratoadau ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg eleni.

Mae'r ysgolion yn y broses o roi gwybod i rieni am y cyfle i fod yn ran o'r cor arbennig hwn o blant oed cynradd, a fydd yn rhannu llwyfan gydag Only Men ALOUD, a sêr y rhaglen dalent boblogaidd, Britain's Got Talent, Only Boys ALOUD, ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn nos Wener Awst 3.

Bydd y plant yn ymarfer yn rheolaidd dros y misoedd nesaf wrth baratoi ar gyfer

profiad bythgofiadwy - a fydd hefyd yn cael ei ddangos yn fyw ar S4C. Tim Rhys-Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Cerdorol Only Men ALOUD sy'n gyfrifol am ddod â'r tri chôr ynghyd, ac fe fydd nifer o aelodau all-weddol o Only Men ALOUD yn gyfrifol am hyfforddi a mentora'r cantorion ifanc.

Meddai Tim, "Roeddem ni'n awyddus i greu côr o blant lleol ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod eleni, gan roi cyfle i blant yr ardal brofi'r wefr o berfformio ar lwyfan o safon byd-eang yn eu hardal leol nhw."

"Gobeithio y bydd hyn yn eu sbarduno ac yn eu hysbrydoli i barhau i ganu a pherfformio, a phwy â w'r, efallai bod rhai o enillwyr yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol dros y degawdau nesaf yn aelodau o Only Vale Kids ALOUD. Y gob-aith mwyaf yw rhoi

profiad heb ei ail i blant a phobl ifanc, a'u cael nhw i fwynhau canu corawl, a thrwy hynny barhau â'r traddodiad hollb-wysig hwn sydd genym ni yma yng Nghymru."

Bydd yr Eisteddfod yn coladu'r wybodaeth gan ysgolion dros yr wythnosau nesaf ac fe fydd ymarferion yn digwydd yn ystod tymor yr haf. Mae modd prynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd arbennig hwn yn barod. Ewch i'r wefan -

www.eisteddfod.org.uk - neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800, ond brysichwch - mae'r tocynnau'n gwerthu'n gyflym.

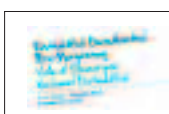
Cofiwch hefyd am y cynigion arbennig ar docynnau Maes eleni, gyda thocynnau rhatach ar gael i'w prynu cyn 1 Gorffennaf. Mae'r manylion i gyd ar wefan yr Eisteddfod.

Cynhelir Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg ar dir hen faes awyr Llandw' ger Y Bontfaen a Llanilltud Fawr o Awst 4-11.

Only Vale Kids ALOUD choir details announced

WITH the National Eisteddfod fast approaching, schools in the Vale have received information about the exciting Only Vale Kids ALOUD project, which is part of the preparations for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod's opening concert later this year.

Schools are in the process of contacting parents with children interested in being part of this unique



choir of primary age children, who will share the Pavilion Stage with Only Men ALOUD, and the stars of Britain's Got Talent, Only Boys ALOUD, on Friday August 3.

The children will be rehearsing regularly over the next few months for this memorable experience - which will also be shown on S4C.

Only Men ALOUD's Musical Director, Tim Rhys-Evans, is responsible for bringing the three choirs together, and key members of Only Men ALOUD will be coaching and mentoring the young singers.

Tim says, "We wanted to create a choir of local school-children for this year's concert, so that children in the

area could experience the thrill of performing on a world-class stage in their locality, and who knows, there may be some future Eisteddfod winners in the choir at this year's opening concert."

"Our greatest hope is to make sure they enjoy choral singing, and this will strengthen this important tradition here in Wales."

Eisteddfod organisers will be collating the information from schools over the next few weeks and rehearsals will be held during the summer term.

Tickets are already available to buy for this special evening. Go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or ring the ticket line on 0845 4090 800 - but hurry - tickets are selling quickly!

The Eisteddfod also has a range of ticket offers for the Maes during the

week, with an early bird discount offer on day tickets until July 1.

All details are on the website. The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod is held on the old air-

field at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from August 4-11.

GWENLLIAN CARR

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D718.

● £2,000: 165601.
 ● The rollover, which now stands at £8,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 224297, 161650, 904605, 932475, 475611, 880026, 716282, 140019, 680006, 132610, 742152, 777591, 184934, 838524, 128228, 592354, 304410, 553025, 845595, 585802.

● £5: 803825, 238727, 538682, 134217, 496461, 989858, 507266, 811472, 205351, 419005, 734638, 823490, 545177.

274867, 206764, 686833, 846798, 584011, 800216, 863260, 364918, 786554, 716104, 666530, 193548, 151153, 466762, 510970, 776493, 961115, 249989, 500897, 450441, 509977, 441776, 314350, 509715, 429385, 381400, 542015, 769277, 386480, 837799, 833668, 784782, 628305, 768634, 346035, 370096, 612827, 945355, 567534, 704361, 764225, 165813, 483142, 942283, 850913, 170958, 416551, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 - Section 85

VACANCIES FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Do you want to know more about the way your council's finances operate? Could you offer a strong and independent voice on your local authority's financial affairs? Are you interested in local government and want to play a role in scrutinising how it works?

Bridgend County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council are looking for citizens to sit as independent members of their audit committees. Our audit committees are important because they:

- Review, scrutinise and issue reports and recommendations in relation to the council's financial affairs.
- Review, scrutinise and issue reports and recommendations on the authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements.
- Oversee its audit arrangements and review its financial statements.

Sometimes we will also give other relevant functions to our audit committees.

Initially, we want to appoint a single lay member to each council but further appointments may be made in the future. We are inviting applications from anyone who would be interested in these positions. In order to be eligible applicant should:

- Recognise and understand the value of the audit function.
- Have no business connection with the council.
- Have knowledge of how local government functions.
- Display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes.

When making our appointment we will consider:

- Your political independence.
- Your ability to meet the time commitment involved.
- Your ability to understand and weigh up evidence.
- Your understanding of local government.

If you believe you meet the above requirements and are interested in becoming a lay member of the audit committee of either Bridgend County Borough Council or The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, you can obtain more information and an application form by contacting the respective officers before 27 April 2012:

Bridgend County Borough Council

The Monitoring Officer
 Legal & Democratic Services
 Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB
 Telephone: 01656 643106
 Or E-mail: Andrew.Jolley@bridgend.gov.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Council

The Monitoring Officer
 Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU
 Telephone: (01446) 700111
 Or Email: phevans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011 - Adran 85

SWYDDI GWAG AR GYFER AELODAU LLEYG O'R PWYLLGOR ARCHWILIO

A ydych chi am wybod mwy am drefniadau ariannol eich cyngor? A allech chi gynnig llais cryf ac annibynnol ar faterion ariannol eich awdurdod lleol? A oes gennych chi ddiddordeb mewn llywodraeth leol ac awydd i gyfrannu at y gwaith o graffu ar sut y mae'n gweithio?

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg yn chwilio am ddinasyddion i fod yn aelodau annibynnol o'u pwyllgorau archwilio. Mae ein pwyllgorau archwilio'n bwysig oherwydd eu bod yn:

- Adolygu a chraffu ar faterion ariannol y cyngor, ac yn cyflwyno adroddiadau ac argymhellion ynglŷn â hwy.
- Adolygu a chraffu ar drefniadau'r awdurdod ar gyfer rheoli risg, rheolaeth fewnol a llywodraethu corfforaethol, ac yn cyflwyno adroddiadau ac argymhellion ynglŷn â hwy.
- Goruchwyllo ei drefniadau archwilio ac adolygu ei ddatganiadau ariannol.

Weithiau byddwn yn rhoi swyddogaethau perthnasol eraill i'n pwyllgorau archwilio hefyd.

I ddechrau, rydym am benodi un aelod lleig i bob cyngor, ond mae'n bosibl y gwneir penodiadau eraill yn y dyfodol. Rydym yn gwahodd ceisiadau gan unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn y swyddi hyn. Er mwyn bod yn gymwys, dylai'r ymgeisydd:

- Gydabod a deall gwerth y swyddogaeth archwilio.
- Bod heb unrhyw gysylltiad busnes â'r cyngor.
- Meddu ar wybodaeth am sut y mae llywodraeth leol yn gweithredu.
- Dangos agwedd ddiduedd a'r gallu i feddlw yn annibynnol.

Pan fyddwn yn penodi byddwn yn ystyried:

- Eich annibyniaeth wleidyddol.
- Eich gallu i fodloni'r ymrwymiad amser sy'n gysylltiedig.
- Eich gallu i ddeall a phwyso a mesur tystiolaeth.
- Eich dealltwriaeth o lywodraeth leol.

Os ydych chi'n credu eich bod yn bodloni'r gofynion uchod a bod gennych ddiddordeb mewn bod yn aelod lleig o bwyllgor archwilio Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr neu Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Bro Morgannwg, gallwch gael mwy o wybodaeth a ffurflen gais trwy gysylltu â'r swyddogion perthnasol cyn 27 Ebrill 2012:

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Y Swyddog Monitro
 Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraidd
 Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel
 Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB
 Ffoniwch: 01656 643106
 Neu anfonwch e-bost at: Andrew.Jolley@bridgend.gov.uk

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Y Swyddog Monitro
 Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig,
 Holton Road, Y Barri, CF63 4RU
 Ffoniwch: (01446) 700111
 Neu anfonwch e-bost at: phevans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

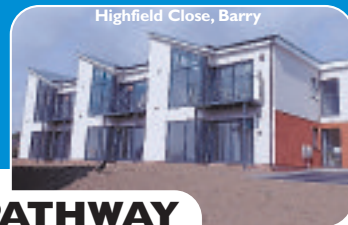




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Interiors from the new development in Highfield Close, Barry

Grab it has grown into an established company now working with local authorities and councils whilst still maintaining its original plant hire services.



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The roof has a slate effect that will match the roof of most houses and comes with a choice of colour finishes.

Please visit our website for more information: www.futurewindowsolutions.co.uk, or contact our friendly team free on 0800 032 0921.

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COTTRELL PARK LADIES NEWS



Ladies egg-cellent on the golf course!



FORTY ladies from Cottrell Park Golf Club recently played a 12-hole Texas Scramble, on a cold blustery day.

The winners were Helen Poole, Andrea Caines, Mary Watkins and Geraldine Twamley with a gross 49, net 41.7. Second were Margaret Thomas, Anne Birt, Norma Fryer and Elaine Mais with gross 52, net 42.3.

Fifty ladies enjoyed a lunch that followed the competition; the flower arrangements on the tables were provided by Angela Padfield and were

won by the lucky ladies who had a red dot under their saucer.

After the Easter raffle, Judy James, ladies' captain presented the prizes of Easter eggs to the winning teams.

The winter eclectic trophy is usually presented at this lunch but unfortunately the winner, Celine Chew, was not available to accept it.

There was also a tie for the winter league trophy between Jenny McGlyne, Jan Thomas and Sian Lovell and this will be decided by a knock-out competition. Judy thanked every one for attending. **CB**

Vale team's showpiece at RHS show

VALE garden designer Jane Grehan of Dewin Designs, sculpture graduate David Lewis and Cardiff based landscaping company Broxton & Moruzzi Landscaping Ltd are building a show garden at the 8th RHS Show Cardiff in the parklands of Cardiff Castle this weekend, April 20-22 – with a design called

'Regeneration' which re-uses waste materials generated by landscaping projects.

Jane said: "The work has been inspired by the shape of an unfurling fern frond as it comes to life in spring, embodying the regeneration of plants as well as waste material such as pallets, slate, logs and grates.

"The garden is enclosed by a painted pallet fence that supports trailing and foliage plants.

"The inner section of the garden has a curving Welsh slate wall that unfurls around a built-in seat. Walls radiate from this central feature to support stepped planting areas.

"Spring flowering plants and evergreen shrubs enhance the gar-



ABOVE:
Jane Grehan.

den's strong shapes and reinforce the regeneration theme."

Cardiff provides the scenic setting for the first RHS outdoor show of the season, with blooms from nurseries across the country, show gardens from Welsh teams, an abundance of guidance and inspiration from the experts during three days of colour and entertainment aimed at the serious horticulturalist and the day tripper alike.

This year, the event features in National Gardening Week, the RHS's bid to get the nation gardening.

Contact 0844 581 0810 or: www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Things starting to buzz in the hives!

THINGS are beginning to get under way in the apiary now. Of the six hives that came through the winter, I have taken two of them to populate the Aberthaw apiary.

It is my intention to use the bees' desire to swarm to enable the stocks in Fonmon to be increased. How will this be done? Now that the days are lengthening, and forage (ie flowers, fruit blossom etc) is available to the bees, the queen bee has stepped up her egg laying and the population within the hive will increase rapidly.

The beekeeper has to carry out regular inspections, whereby he/she can look to the needs of the bees, the main requirement is that of room.

The provision of boxes containing drawn out honeycomb will usually suffice, giving the queen more room to lay and for the bees to store more nectar and pollen.

However, should the bees feel that space is diminishing, they will start to rectify matters. Swarming is their answer to this situation.

This is where the regular inspections pay off, once the decision to swarm is undertaken, the bees will start to make large cells on the frames in the hive.

It is now that the beekeeper has to be on the alert if he/she wants to control things.

The queen cells, as they are known, can vary in number from two or three even up to a dozen or more. It is the use of these queen cells that will enable the beekeeper to increase the stocks at the apiary.

Using a Nucleus-Box (small version of a hive) to which has been added frames containing pollen and nectar and bees, a frame with one/two queen cells on it can be introduced. There is no queen in resident in this nucleus,

and the bees within will be those that are described as nurse bees. Their task in any hive is to care for eggs, and to care for larvae (eggs that have hatched) plus look to the needs of the queen that will eventually appear.

The beekeeper will have to feed this nucleus as it will not have forager bees to do this. Given a little help from dame fortune, a new hive could well be on the cards.

This is a simplification of one method available to the beekeeper, others do exist.

The splitting of a hive showing signs of swarming is yet another approach; here the hive will be opened up and some frames will be taken out and transferred to another box. Each box should have 11 frames in it so new or previously used frames are brought in to give each box its full complement.

Timing and care are very important here if success is to be achieved. One of the boxes will be devoid of foraging bees because the flying foragers will go to the original site on which one of your boxes resides. Feeding of one or both hives may well be required.

Swarms are another way of making increase but, the beekeeper is trying to avoid this very thing at his/her own apiary. Note swarming is part of a bee's life cycle, it may not happen every year but at some point bees will swarm. This is, after all, how bees keep the species going.

Should anyone need a deeper understanding of my over simplification here, the internet is a very good source and one site worth a look for all things beekeeping is Dave Cushman A-Z – you could well spend the rest of your life there. You might even want to become a beekeeper.

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Locals meet Morse author at English Speaking Union

COLIN DEXTER, of Morse and cross-word fame, was the very amusing and interesting speaker at the April literary lunch of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union.

The branch was also delighted to welcome the acclaimed artist, Andrew Vicari to the event. Membership is still growing, and more than 160 members and guests attended at the City Stadium.

For information on future events, contact Derek Morgan on 01656 669129.

Photos by HEATHER MARCH



Dan Clayton-Jones wanted the author's signature on some treasured first editions



Colin Dexter signing Morse books, helped by Lady Susan Ink.

Articles For Sale

Tri Wheel Walker

Three wheeled walking aid with brakes and shopping bag. Used. Good condition. £30 ono
01446 772330
Buyer collects. Cowbridge area. 15/16

Contents of Hair Salon For Sale

including stock, chairs, tumble dryer, towels, etc. owner retiring due to ill health
01446 745298 or 735574 15

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Rocker Chair £10

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01446 711197 16/17

Homebase Electric Fire Suite

Including mantle, cream with brass effect finish. 2 heat settings/ flame effect. H98 x W104 x D29cms. Excellent condition. £95
01446 792933 16/17

1 Ikea Udden s/s Kitchen Trolley + 2 Baskets

As new £20

1 Ikea Vard s/s & Pine Kitchen Drawer Unit

As new £20

1 Kneehole Desk, yew wood with green leather top, 9 deep drawers - £60

01446 771061 16/17

Motors For Sale

2002 ROVER 75

Connoisseur SE Auto Black, petrol, 97,500 miles, exc. condition throughout, regularly serviced. £850 ono
01446 772299 or 07941 874981 15/16

2001 Mercedes Benz C200 Elegance auto

New shape, excellent condition. Part service history. £2,850 ono
07971 246535 16/17

53 Plate FORD FOCUS

1.6 Zetec 90k miles. 11 months MOT. 2 new front tyres £1,600 ono
01446 771129 16/17

04 Plate VAUXHALL VECTRA

16v Club 1.8 petrol 4-dr saloon, silver, manual, 5 gears. MOT March. Taxed August. 88k £2,450
01446 795699 07730 250246 16/17

Norwegian thriller is a thoroughly 'captivating piece'

IN the last couple of years, the Scandinavian nations have decided to put the amenable, pine-and-snow personalities to the side and embrace the world of thrillers, murders and general skullduggery.

The success of their crime fiction, TV series and films (including the likes of the *Girl...* franchise, *The Killing* and *Wallerand*) has seen a global rise in the interest of what this area of the world will conjure up next, with *Headhunters* being the latest to hit cinema screens.

Adapted from the book by Jo Nesbo, this Norwegian film tells the story of Roger Brown (Aksel Hennie) a corporate headhunter who moonlights as a top art thief; but he bites off more than he can chew, when he targets Clas Greve (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), a man who doesn't take lightly to Roger's interest and who turns Roger from hunter to hunted...

The raft of remakes of Scandinavian films and TV shows merely highlights both the lack of imagination on the part of producers, but also a nod that, at present, the work they are producing is, by and large, more impressive than most English-language fare.

Headhunters is yet

another example of this, a thriller on the surface but when scratched, reveals both a tenderness and a dark comedy that make it a highly refreshing watch. That's not to say the film softens its edges in any way, rather the adaptation of Jo Nesbo's novel manages to transmute various elements onto the big screen without these elements distracting or detracting from the main story.

The film is very well acted, Aksel Hennie's turn as the lead protagonist a fine one that dances the line, and encompasses varying degrees of horror, humour and pathos.

It is a committed turn by the actor, one that sees him tested more physically than anything else, but he is more than up to the task, making the character of man seeing his facade of a life disappearing in front of his very eyes both appealing and rootable.

Opposite him, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (who will be better known to *Game Of Thrones* fans as the devilish Jaime Lannister) essays the role of Clas Greve with a cold hearted relish.

In many ways, the character is the antithesis of Roger, the slick suits masking who they really are, but Waldau brings a clinical precision that will make Hollywood bosses offer him villainous foreigners for at

least the next three years. The other performances are all pitched perfectly, from Synnove Macody Lund as the wife Roger feels is above him, to Julie Olgaard's woman on the side with a mysterious background and Eivind Sander's fence.

Morten Tyldum's direction, as you would expect, is clean and crisp, brimming with the imagery that the likes of *The Killing* and the *Girl...* films have perfected for their own, while he shows a keen ability to marshal the needs of a twisty story into something that, subtitles or no subtitles, is easy to follow.

Adapting Nesbo's novel, Lars Guldmeistad and Ulf Ryberg do a sterling job, managing to balance the dark heart of the story with voyages into comedy and tragedy.

The film's concentration on Roger's lack of height and the complex it has given him recurs throughout while the character's descent into hell - via an outside toilet in one instance - is given extra heft by the writers' concentration on character.

Certainly the story hangs a little too much on convenient contrivance, while the reveal of Greve's endgame, while clever, feels a little too unrealistic despite the nature of the story; but, as thrillers go, *Headhunters* scores

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

another direct hit for Scandinavia - await the poorly-executed American remake at your peril!

VERDICT - A coolly executed thriller that offers more, *Headhunters* is a slick piece of work that raises moralistic questions against a backdrop of living a life that is not our own. Strong performances and direction make this a captivating piece of work. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* (2009), *Limitless* (2011)



Lord Lieutenant Peter Beck was delighted to meet up with his old classics master



Enid Evans of Bonvilston enjoyed a chat with the author.



Colin Dexter with south Wales branch chairman, Derek Morgan.



World renowned artist Andrew Vicari, (right) who has local connections, with chairman Derek Morgan and Lyn Beck.

WE'RE ON TWITTER!

Did you know that you can now find The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter? Follow us @gem_news

Top Welsh racehorses on show at Ystrad Taf Fechan

TOP Welsh point-to-pointers *Chesnut Annie*, *Findlay's Find* and *Lady Myfanwy* all turned up at Ystradowen last Saturday, for the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases.

Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie* ran out a twenty lengths winner of the members' race, Myfanwy Miles' *Findlay's Find* failed by three parts of a length to catch *Midnight Diamond* in the £1,000 John Lovell Memorial men's open race, and *Lady Myfanwy* was a three lengths winner of the Aga ladies' open race.

Chesnut Annie, who took some time to warm to her task, brought her tally of wins to 34, which includes two hunter chases, and her rider Sally Randell, asked for a comment, said: "I was just glad to get her past the winning post today."

Findlay's Find, under Barry Denvir, made up a lot of ground on the second circuit but Matthew Barber on Nina Phillips' course winner *Midnight Diamond* was always in control, and he said: "I knew my horse would stay but it was his jumping that won us the race."

Lady Myfanwy who, according to her rider Claire Hart, is "a lit-

tle star", was recording her 27th win between-the-flags and she also has four hunter chase wins to her credit.

Paul Miles says that the AGA Ladies' Hunter Chase Final at Cheltenham on May 2 is her main target.

Duc De Normandie, partnered by Bridgend's Rachel Leyshon (18) finished a length in front of the tiring *Not To Berude* (Tom David) in the restricted race. However, after a steward's inquiry the positions were reversed on the grounds that *Duc De Normandie*, who had jumped the last two fences ahead of the pacemaker *Not To Berude*, had taken the ground of the 'runner-up' causing the experienced David 'having to snatch up his mount.'

Some racegoers thought that the stewards had over-reacted and had been too harsh on Leyshon, a comparative novice to David who was riding his 15th 'winner' of the season.

Towering Run, who had been pulled up at Lydstep on Bank Holiday Monday when having no chance of catching the winner *Superman De La Rue*, gave John Mathias his 10th winner of the season when coming home six lengths ahead of *Ace High Blue*

in the intermediate race.

Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, took the young horse maiden on Michael Bassett's *Coosan Lad*, which won by 20 lengths from *Hazarose*.

Coosan Lad, a six-year-old bay gelding, is trained by Luke Price, who was saddling his fifth winner of the season. Bradley brought his season's tally of wins to 11, and this includes a winner under rules.

Gareth Ball, 22, another of Tim Vaughan's work riders, notched-up his first winner when landing the aged horse maiden on Robert Evans' *Coole Abbey Major*, which won by a length from *Sueski*. Londoner Gareth, apparently known to his fellow jockeys as 'Brains', has had around 22 rides and was completing the course for just the second time.

Mr Evans, who couldn't remember the last time he had a winner, paid just £300 for *Coole Abbey Major* and said it cost him a lot more to bring the horse over from Ireland.

BRIAN LEE



The Farmers Arms... The Pub on the Pond!

NEW LOOK...NEW MENU...NOW OPEN!



A FAVOURITE VALE PUB IS BACK!

ONE of the Vale's best-known public houses, the Farmers Arms in St Bride's Major, is back in business and putting on a fresh face after a £250,000 refurbishment.



HUW JONES

The pub had established a strong reputation for excellent value food over many years, and its new landlord, Huw Jones, is aiming to continue that tradition in a setting that he believes has been greatly enhanced by the revamp – jointly funded by Punch Taverns and by Huw.

What is more, Huw understands what makes a Vale pub tick – a knowledge gained over 36 years in the trade, the last seven at the Sportsman's Rest in Peterston-super-Ely.

Huw told The GEM: "The Farmers Arms had become a little tired in appearance, so we have used the refurbishment to

improve the interior, making it more open and giving customers more space, and also to address a few practical problems."

One of those problems was the old entrance, which was right on the main road. Now, anyone parking in the pub's ample car park can walk straight in via the new main entrance. Children and grannies no longer need to be shepherded along a busy road.

Disabled access has been tackled at the same time, and the pub is now completely compliant, through the new entrance and with new disabled toilets.

However, while Huw is delighted with the new look interior, he knows that every pub will stand or fall on its food and drink.

He is confident that beer drinkers will be impressed, as the accent is on real ale, with four hand pumps. Two will be for regulars, and two will be guest beers.

There will also be a wide range of lagers and, as Huw says, "a choice of wines from around the world".

When it comes to food, Huw believes in good value home cooking using local produce, and the Farmers Arms will have an all-day menu, with a variety of chef's specials, including fish dishes, including monkfish, marlin and skate.

There will be a two-course lunch at £10.95, and a special 'smaller portions' meal – often popular with older people, at £11 for two.

Huw believes in theme nights as well, and Tuesdays will be fish nights, with a meal and a pint at £8.95.

Wednesdays will be a 'pie and a pint' night, and Thursdays will be a 'curry and a cobra' night.

Another special offer, this time on Friday, is two steaks and a bottle of wine for just £25.

The pub will also be doing light breakfasts from 10am. Not the calorie-laden full English, but a tasty menu including croissants, eggs Benedict, and kippers – and also teas and coffees during the morning.



The restaurant.

Finally, of course, every country pub has its own take on a Sunday lunch, and the Farmers Arms will be offering beef, pork, lamb or turkey with all the extras, and a home-made special recipe gravy.

Huw is looking forward to returning the Farmers Arms to its former glory, and he anticipates that it will be a significant boost to the local economy.

He added: "I think that in total, this enterprise will be creating around 25 full and part time jobs in the Vale."

Not to mention buying all that local produce, of course.

PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: The bar retains many traditional features.

The Farmers Arms

The Pub on the Pond,
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Guides hold bakesale

THE 10th Barry Guides are holding a 'bakesale' and a tabletop sale on April 28 from 10am-12.30pm at the 10th Barry Guide Hall (opposite Romilly School). There will be tea, coffee and stalls. We really would appreciate your support.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00302/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Retention of replacement shop front with additional alterations (resubmission)
Location/Lleoliad: 9A, Royal Buildings, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00326/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Re-design of previously approved 4 bed detached dwellings with double garages, under planning application 2006/00599/FUL at Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Plots 1 and 2
Location/Lleoliad: Brook Farm, Llanmaes
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Llanmaes

Conservation Area Consent /Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00330/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition and construction of a dilapidated single storey cottage to form a two storey living accommodation and change of use from C1 to C3
Location/Lleoliad: The Cottage, The Red Lion Inn, Pendoylan
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Pendoylan

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00284/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Reinstatement and repair portico to original specification
Location/Lleoliad: Lansdowne House, 6, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00279/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: The proposal is to remove two columns from the kiosk to open up the front elevation onto the promenade. Also to remove three air vents and install four windows on two of the rear elevations overlooking Whitmore Bay, improving both the outlook from the unit and the view back from the beach itself
Location/Lleoliad: The Promenade Cafe, The Promenade, Barry
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00304/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Affix memorial plaque to the exterior of the Town Hall
Location/Lleoliad: Town Hall, Kings Square, Barry
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00328/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Works to provide pedestrian access on slipway
Location/Lleoliad: RNLI Barry Dock Station (disused), Pierhead, Docks, Barry
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00316/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Variation of condition No.12 of approved application 1995/00161/OUT to allow sale of Non-bulky Class A1 retail goods
Location/Lleoliad: Units 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B, Brooklands Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00324/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of former hotel and construction of nine apartments including car parking & landscaping
Location/Lleoliad: Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00316/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Variation of condition No.12 of approved application 1995/00161/OUT to allow sale of Non-bulky Class A1 retail goods
Location/Lleoliad: Units 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B, Brooklands Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated: 19th April, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry,
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 19 Ebrill, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

EISTEDDFOD YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT BARUC

MOLLY WINS THE PRIZE



CYNHALIWDYD eisteddfod yr ysgol eleni ar ddydd Gwener yr 2il o Fawrth.

'Twiti Ffrwti' sef Molly Cameron o lys Glyndwr oedd y bardd buddugol ac enillydd y gadair eleni. Enw'r gerdd fuddugol oedd 'Ar ben fy Hun' a ddaeth i'r brig allan o nifer o gerddi arbenig o dda. Rhoddodd Mrs Ann Evans, y beirniad, gannoliaeth fawr i bob un o gerddi blwyddyn 6. Aeth yr ail wobr i Caitlin Coles, y drydedd i Mari Kingsley a'r bedwaredd wobr i Rhys Jeffrey. Darlennwch y gerdd fuddugol isod.

Eisteddfod results:

THE winning poet was 'Twiti Ffrwti', whose real name is Molly Cameron, from Glyndwr house. She won the first prize and the chair for her poem, entitled 'Ar ben fy Hun'.

The judge, Mrs Ann Evans, gave high praise to the work of every child in year-6. Second place went to Caitlin Coles, third to Mari Kingsley and fourth to Rhys Jeffrey. Here is the winning poem:

Ar ben fy hun...

Gweld arch Dad yn cael ei gollwng yn y ddaear,
Gweld perthnasau yn crio yn ddi-baid,
Gweld ei garreg-fedd yn cael ei gorchuddio fel
plentyn yn cael ei gorchuddio gyda blanced,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod...
Ar ben fy hun!

Clywed fy nghalon yn pwmpio,
Clywed murmur traed yn agosau at y capel, fel lly-
god yn crwydro yn y nenlofft,
Clywed y gwynt yn byrlynnu,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod...
Ar ben fy hun!

Teimlo fy llygaid yn difaru gyda d r,

Teimlo fy ngwaed yn bwrw,

Teimlo ias yn afon yn rhedeg lawr fy nghefn fel
gwael yn mynd trwy fy ngwythienau,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod...
AR BEN FY HUN !!!

Tlws y cerddor/Musician's trophy

CYNHALIWDYD eisteddfod yr ysgol ar ddydd Gwener yr 2il o Fawrth ac enillydd Tlws y Cerddor eleni oedd Rhys Jeffrey o lys Llywelyn. Derbyniodd e'r tlws am ei gyfraniad cerddorol i Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc. Mae Rhys yn canu, chwarae'r gitâr, ac yn aelod ffyddlon o gôr yr ysgol. Llongyfarchiadau mawr iddo.

The winner of the 'Musician's Trophy' was Rhys Jeffrey.

He received the trophy for his musical contribution to Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc during his time in the school. Rhys sings, plays the guitar and is a faithful member of the school choir.

Ed Evans walkers raise £1,200 for research

THE Ed Evans Foundation held its walk on Easter Monday, despite the wet and windy weather, when 68 brave walkers took to the coast, the majority walking six miles and the hardy few walked 12 miles.

Although it rained continually, a good time was had by all and some very wet bodies returned to the Horseshoe for a very worthy drink. The event raised more than £1,200 for brain

tumour research and 682 miles were walked, which will be included as one of the many walks taking place around the world raising awareness to the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends. I big thank you to all who took part.

SE

Rotarians present cheque to centre

THE Rotary Club of Barry have made a donation to the centre in Holton Road, Barry which gives help and support to elderly people in the Vale.

President-nominee Peter Battle recently visited the centre to present a cheque for £590 to Nona Hexter, Ageing Well coordinator for the Vale. The money will be used to purchase some furniture for the centre.

Turn heads this spring...

SINCE opening her own hairdressing salon earlier this year, Beth Daniel has found that lots of 'local' regulars have re-acquainted themselves, and she has been delighted to welcome new customers.

In fact, Beth is thrilled with the response to date. She is privileged to be one of the selected salons to offer 'The Best' – better known as the 'GK Brazilian Blow Dry Straightening System'.

This treatment starts from £70 and is suitable for all hair types.

The cutting edge of all aspects of hairdressing is assured at Beth's unisex salon.

Please call soon at 20, Dunraven Place, Bridgend. Telephone 01656 750108.

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BRIDGEND
Tues-Thurs 9am-5.30pm
Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

Fitness expert looking for volunteers for new weight loss programme

LOCAL fitness expert Claire Hendy is seeking seven 'tried everything and failed' female volunteers, who are willing to invest 28 days of their time and effort – in exchange for more than £200 worth of training, coaching and nutritional advice.

The programme promises to bring about a huge change in their appearance, weight and lifestyle.

Claire said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who is 100 per cent serious about finally getting the results that have always eluded

them. The course may be free financially, but I expect every participant to pay their way in effort and attitude.

"This course will strip pounds of unwanted body-fat, make you much stronger, fitter, more flexible – in fact, your body will look completely different!"

Classes are run in the Pontyclun and Talbot Green, Miskin and Pendoylan area.

The Port Talbot-born entrepreneur said: "I decided to launch the 'Health in a Nutshell Program' to finally destroy the myth that you need to spend hours at the gym in order to get results.

"The seven volunteers will be blown away by the results, which will be used in

data in my upcoming book"

Mrs Hendy, launched her fitness company, Figureout Fatloss in January, after trialing her program first on herself and then with six people before Christmas 2011.

Claire has had a long struggle with maintaining a healthy body weight, especially after having four children in eight years.

She said: "My aim is to educate people and take them away from the 'one size fits all' approach. For instance, not many people know that low fat yoghurts are actually loaded with sugar and high heels can make your stomach stick out.

"All I'm asking for are seven people who have been on diets, been to the LBT classes, tried the DVDs, and who really want to get maximum results with minimum fuss – without counting points, without weighing things and without spending hours at the gym".

Anyone interested should contact Claire via email at claire@hendyuk.com or phone 07999 411475

Counselling, in the comfort of your home

CLARITY Counselling is here to offer you counselling within the comfort of your home – the aim is to bring you high-quality, professional and person-centred counselling.

So, whether you need a listening ear or perhaps long-term therapy, Clarity could be what you are looking for.

I am able to offer counselling within the areas of Barry, Penarth, Dinas Powys and Sully. This service is mainly aimed for those who may struggle to leave their homes due to disability, mobility, mental health reasons or lack of

transport. I have experience of working with a wide range of issues.

I also have more than nine years of care experience in working with older people within a care worker capacity.

Here is a list of some of my experienced areas within counselling: anxiety, abuse, depression, disabilities, stress, trauma, workplace issues, loss, identity issues, bereavement, low self esteem and confidence.

Counselling is a safe place where you can offload and explore ways to cope better with life's challenges.

Contact Kirsten on 07818 742964, or www.kirsten@clarity-counselling.co.uk.

Clarity Counselling
Bringing Counselling to your home

Available in Barry, Penarth, Sully and Dinas Powys

Kirsten Hobbs
Dip/Therapeutic Counselling,
MBACP

07818 742964

Clarity Counselling
Email: kirsten@claritycounselling12.co.uk
www.claritycounselling.org



ABOVE: Ceryn Lawless from Pontyclun.
BELOW: Hiral Shah from Llandough.



ABOVE: Janthia Morgan from Ogmere Vale.
BELOW: Maesteg's Courtney-Lee Morris.



ABOVE: Jessica Thomas from Bridgend.



ABOVE: Jessica O'Sullivan from Barry.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS.
(Telephone 07791 228684).

SIX young women from The GEM's circulation area took part in the Miss Wales competition last week.

Unfortunately, none of them made the podium – but then, beauty has always been subjective!

Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

MONDAY
Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall,
Junction of Court Road & Llanover Street
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose - 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.45pm
Market Street
Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. David's Methodist Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
4.45 & 6.45pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

0844 897 8000
www.slimmingworld.com

Calling all past members.
A warm welcome awaits you.

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Cardiff - 6.00pm
All Welcome
8.00pm MEN ONLY
Rob - 07708 941279
Cophorne Hotel,
Culverhouse Cross,
Cardiff

Barry - 6.00pm
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY
Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre,
Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool,
Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge - 7.30pm
Cowbridge Comprehensive
Aberthin Road
Rob - 07708 941279

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WANTED... FigureOut fatloss

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- Willing to invest 28 days time & effort
- FREE training, coaching, nutritional advice to the value of £200!
- Must be 100% serious & committed to achieving their fitness goals

Join this 'Health in a Nutshell' program...

Classes: Pontyclun/Talbot Green, Pendoylan & Miskin
by contacting Claire on 07999 411475
or via email: claire@hendyuk.com

Street protest over threat to town's livestock market

LED by the town mayor and town crier, thousands of people joined a protest march through Cowbridge last Friday.

The aim was to put pressure on the Vale Council, which intends to close the town's livestock market and sell off the land for housing for the elderly.

Local traders and townspeople on the march say that the town will lose trade, and also lose parking spaces, although the council disputes this, saying that it can develop the site without a net loss of parking.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS and MIKE WILCOCK.
{Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn (telephone 07791 228684) and those marked 'MW' are by Mike (telephone 01446 774484)}.



Chamber of Trade chairman Alun John is interviewed by ITV.



Dave (86) shows his golf is still up to scratch!



ABOVE: Captain Lyn Thomas with Godfrey Lewis, Glyn Watts-Jones and Aubrey Thomas,



ABOVE: Phil Mason and Dan Latham with Dan and Tim Jarvis.

A HIGHLIGHT of the recently held monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was the magnificent effort of Dave 'Old Wallace' Thomas, who celebrated his 86th birthday in style when achieving a par on the difficult 187-yard 9th hole on the rapidly improving Button Gwinnett Course at Cottrell Park.

A well-placed tee shot, avoiding the bunker to the right and a large water hazard to the left, was the talking point at the 19th hole as David recalled his moment of glory.

At 86, David must surely be the oldest playing golfer to achieve a net birdie on this difficult hole.

The day's event, kindly sponsored by Hire One Ltd, attracted 38 competitors, all eager to test their skill on a course that boasts 13 lakes.

Despite the temperature at Cottrell Park – higher than the Costa del Sol – allowing for perfect playing conditions, the aspirations of quite a few members planning a visit to the winners' enclosure failed to materialise.

Loss of sleep and aching arms following a very heavy (and profitable) lambing season was offered as an excuse by many for their poor scores, while having the pleasure of looking after four grandchildren, gout in a finger and increased domestic chores were just some of the other reasons offered.

On the plus side, credit must be given to cap-



ABOVE: Trevor Wooding and Keith Davies with runner-up Bryan Owen

tain Lyn Thomas, Bryan Owen and Dai John, whose disciplined approach to the competition included a practice round just 24 hours earlier.

This nearly paid dividends for Bryan, whose final score of 37 stableford points was just two behind the winning score of Tony McCarthy, who credited his success to a stress free life following retirement.

In third and fourth place respectively were Glyn Watts-Jones and Jim Hayes who both scored 36 points.

Peter O'Toole won the guest section with 34 points, followed by Dan Jarvis who scored 33.

Sponsor's representative Phil Mason, despite depositing two balls in the water on the final hole, finished third – also with 33.

Aubrey Bowen's prudent plans for his forthcoming 80th birthday celebration were given a timely boost when he won the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky, when correctly guessing 40 balls would

spend the night on a golf course that occasionally has views of seven neighbouring counties and is named after a former resident at Cottrell, who was one of 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence back in 1776, thus becoming one of America's immortals.

The winners of the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored prizes for being nearest the pin on the par three holes were Phil Mason, Bryan Owen, Dan Jarvis and Tim Jarvis.

Dan also collected the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored longest drive prize.

Local resident William E Prichard, a former member of the society, was a guest to the evenings presentation ceremony.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, at Llanern Golf Club and will be sponsored by Cowbridge and Bridgend Solicitors, Gaskell & Walker & Co.

T McC

Did you know that you can now find The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter - follow us @gem_news We are also on Facebook - facebook.com/gemnews

Patched-up Barry outlast Clwb Rygbi

BARRY were looking to get back on track with a home league fixture against high-flying Clwb Rygbi, who were at the other end of the table looking towards promotion.

With no less than six players being involved with the First XV, and injuries ravaging the second team squad, coach Rhydian Scott and interim manager Ken Chow tried their best to put together a 'patched-up' side.

Veterans Andrew Prosser, Jason Evans and Lee David were recalled into the match-day 19, while Seb Vidal, outstanding in the pack last week, was drafted to play inside centre. Joel Williams and Joe McCann continued their half-back partnership.

The form book and league standings pointed to a comfortable away win, and especially with the number of players missing from the home side. However, the green-and-whites tore up the form book and took the fight to Clwb Rygbi right from the off.

The forward power was too much for the visitors as Prosser, Lundy and No8 Evans all made good ground.

The strong running of the newly-formed centre partnership of Vidal and Ben Taylor also appeared threatening.

However, it was CRCC who opened the scoring with an interception try which stunned the home support. It was almost their first touch of the game.

That encouraged the away side and they fashioned several chances after the restart, using their talented backline as they threatened to increase their advantage.

In a notable moment, Clwb Rygbi put their second row through a gap for an easy score underneath the posts, only for the player to drop the ball while attempting a 'Chris Ashton swan-dive' and let Barry off the hook.

That proved to be a turning point for Barry as they attempted to use their forward domination.

The combination of Prosser and Callum Scott at the line-out was outstanding, while the front row proved too much for their opposition.

Prosser almost scored from an ambitious blind-side dash, only to be tripped up by his own team-mate Tobin, while Taylor had two opportunities when he broke the CRCC line.

The management brought on David and Michael Awaient at half-

BARRY 2nd XV 15
CLWB RYGBI 2nd XV 8

time in an attempt to cash in on their forward domination, and it worked almost immediately.

After several attempts on the CRCC line, it was down to Joe McCann, who crashed through to score. Adam Lee struck the post with his attempt at the extras.

After the visitors had sneaked ahead once more with a penalty, Barry charged for the opposition line with renewed vigour and aggression.

With CRCC camped in their own half with no way out, due to the well-organised Barry defence, with Lee Jones, Scott and David in the fore, the home side could feel that another score was on the cards.

The substitute Awaient was gifted a golden opportunity to score with the try line at his mercy, but he somehow failed to control the ball and knocked on when five points looked to be the only conclusion.

His blushes were spared, however, when the Barry pack drove their opposite number back, and Sam Bowditch put Vidal in for a deserved score under the posts. Lee made no mistake with his boot this time.

Clwb Rygbi desperately tried to come back but another away infringement at the breakdown gave Lee the opportunity for three points, which he duly accepted. Barry repelled the final onslaught by the away side as they wrapped up a memorable victory.

Credit must be given to players and management alike for a gutsy and precise display of rugby.

Team: Lee; E Evans, Vidal, Taylor, Porter; Williams, McCann; Lundy, Prosser, Bowditch; Scott, Tobin; Jones, Rolfe (c); J Evans. Subs used: David, Awaient. Subs not used: Thomas, Houlden. Man-of-the-match: Vidal.

BARRY
YOUTH 37
CARDIFF
HSOB
YOUTH 24

CAPTAIN Luke O'Sullivan returned from first team duty to score a hat-trick in a must-win game against Cardiff High School Old Boys if Barry were to keep their league hopes

alive.

Things started glowingly as Luke O'Sullivan opened up the scoring for Barry.

With Barry playing into a strong wind, things got even better when a further two scores were put on the board through Ethan Dix and Jordan Clarke.

However, the strong wind meant that Einar Scott could only manage one conversion from three attempts.

However, at 17-0 and playing the better rugby what could go wrong? Then the blight of the commentator's curse took over, for CHSOB responded with four unanswered tries, two of which were converted.

Shell-shocked and trailing 24-17 at half-time the team were re-motivated by an uncompromising team talk by coaching staff.

With renewed self-belief their efforts were soon rewarded in the second half when after being camped in their own 22 they broke out and scored a try through O'Sullivan, the conversion by Scott bringing the scores level at 24-24.

Barry were now in the ascendency and from a fifth-phase of attacking play O'Sullivan went blind and crossed for his hat-trick which went unconverted.

With the game tight and following an infringement by the opposition, Scott decided on a penalty attempt from inside his own half.

The ball struck the upright and returned inflected to be gathered up by Nathan Harris, who was unfortunately brought down five metres out.

Within minutes, the opposition infringed again and Scott took an easier kick and put Barry two scores ahead.

In the dying stages Barry took control on a home throw in on the opposition five-metre line.

Using a neat play at a lineout, Sion Vidal peeled off from a quick tap down, went blind and crossed for a try which went unconverted.

The final score was 37-24.

Team: L Booker, J Clarke, E Dix, E Scott, R Case, J Flynn, R Mephram, T Ellis, C Prosser, M Howells, Davies, J Adams, S Vidal, L O'Sullivan, A Williamson, J Miles. Subs: J Oaten, J Westall, D Evans, N Harris, T Adams, B Wall, M O'Sullivan.

MM



The Penarth Patriots Basketball Club are on the look-out for sponsors to help the club thrive.

Top coaching helps Penarth Patriots reach new heights

PENARTH Patriots Basketball Club is reaching new heights thanks to an experienced new coach and the backing of the Community Chest scheme.

American O'Brien Greene, who has more than 20 years of basketball coaching knowledge acquired both in the USA and this side of the Atlantic, is passing on invaluable tips to the teenagers who attend the club each week.

O'Brien's time with

the club is being funded by the Community Chest scheme, an initiative which helps people of all ages in Wales get more active, more often.

The scheme, which is run locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales, has also funded coaching courses to help the parents of club members to improve their coaching CVs.

Tracy Morgan, who set up the club two years ago, said: "Having access to a top coach

forms a vital part of a child's development in sport, and O'Brien is making a massive impact at our club. Being able to send some of our parents on coaching courses will also help with the long-term sustainability of our club."

Training up additional coaches will eventually enable the club to expand to run both an A and a B team to meet the demand of local teenagers who are keen to play basketball regularly.

Many teenagers are getting into basketball in

their schools thanks to the extra-curricular sports sessions that are provided by the 5x60 scheme, run by Sport Wales and the Vale Council, so there is plenty of demand.

But, just like so many other community sports clubs, the Penarth Patriots could do with a bit of extra backing to help them thrive, as Tracy explains: "If possible, we'd love to hear from a local company who would be interested in sponsoring our club. We'd love to be able to buy some new kit, and if a sponsor came forward

to help us to do this then that would be fantastic."

For further details, and to discuss a possible Community Chest application, please call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

The Penarth Patriots train every Thursday at the Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth Sports Hall in Penarth, and also play regular matches against teams from across south Wales. If you'd like to find out more about the club, call Tracy on 07719 660096.

Westend Ladies host successful club fundraiser!

WESTEND Ladies netball club would like to thank everyone who attended their fundraising evening on Friday April 13 at the King William IV pub (The Billy).

The evening was a huge success with fabulous prizes won during the raffle, kindly donated by generous local businesses and individuals.

The quiz was also a success, along with everyone thoroughly enjoying the disco and putting their dancing shoes to good use!

There was also a football signed by the Welsh football team after the Gary Speed memorial auctioned, and this raised £200.

The event was held to raise money for the club, along with money for CLIC Sargent cancer charity. The team will be donating £400 to the charity and we will continue to raise more money throughout the year by hosting more events.

Send your stories to your GEM: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

AGA Ladies' racing championships heats up for final event

AS the prestigious AGA Lady Riders' Championship enters its final weekend, the title battle is perched on a knife-edge with nine competitors still with a realistic chance of winning.

As it stands, Jane Williams leads the running, just four points ahead of Claire Hart, who had briefly drawn level after a victory at Ystradowen.

Excitement is mounting, with the final at Cheltenham on May 2 now within touching distance. At stake is not only a brand new AGA Total Control cooker worth almost £10,000, but also a prize fund of £7,500.

There is also the prestige and thrill of having a spin around the famous course – all factors that should ensure a bumper entry for the final and a very competitive race on the evening.

Second-placed Claire Hart is enthusiastic about the competition. She says: "I'm loving every minute and being part of it is fab. I cannot wait for Cheltenham and, win, lose or draw, being involved has been amazing."

In this weekend's two races, Jane Williams maintained her good form – and her place at the top of the leaderboard – with a win on *Swift Counsel* at Tabley House, and Claire Hart won on *Lady Myfanwy* at Ystradowen.

Full results:
YSTRAD Taf Fechan at Ystradowen result: First – *Lady Myfanwy*, owned by Paul Miles, trained by Myfanwy Miles, ridden by Claire Hart (4/5 fav); Second – *Avesomeofthat*, owned by Mr CD Tilly, trained and ridden by Hannah Lewis; Third – *Little Miss Monty*, owned and trained by Shan Farr, ridden by Emily Farr; Fourth – *No Reason*

Why, ridden by Rachel Leysnon.

Lady Myfanwy took her winning tally to 31 (including three Hunter Chases) when justifying favouritism in the AGA Ladies' Open qualifier at Ystradowen.

The plan is to run in the AGA final at Cheltenham, although rider Claire Hart has also qualified her own charge, *Palypso de Creek*. *Lady Myfanwy's* success keeps Claire in second place in the AGA Total Control Lady Riders' Championship.

Cheshire Forest at Tabley result: First – *Swift Counsel*, owned and trained by Diana Williams, ridden by Jane Williams, SP (4/6 fav); Second – *The General Lee*, owned by Anthony Squires and Judith Healey, trained by Phil Rowley, ridden by Lorna Brooke; Third – *Scotmail Too*, owned by Di Cope and Sue Sharratt, trained and ridden by Sue Sharratt; Fourth – *Top Achiever*, ridden by Hannah James; URs – *Le Seychellois*, ridden by Jo Mason; *Power Shared*, ridden by Claire Hart.

Jane Williams won her fourth 10-point AGA qualifier when her mother Diana's *Swift Counsel* made all the running to win easily.

"He was amazing," said a delighted Jane. "He jumped brilliantly. He was quite fresh, and he sometimes gets a bit silly at the start, but he jumped off with no problem."

Thankfully for Jane, she will not have to make a decision about her mount in the final – *Swift Counsel* is thought to be better on a flat track and Cheltenham would be unlikely to suit him, so she can team up again with *Billyvoddan* to try to retain the championship they won last season.

BRIAN LEE

Point-to-Point racing is back in the Vale, and Ystradowen provides a great day out

POINT-TO-POINT racing is now in full swing and the sport continues to attract enthusiastic audiences who enjoy the thrill of seeing horse and rider in harmony as they tackle the fences.

GEM photographer GLYN EVANS attended a recent point-to-point at Ystradowen.

He mixed with spectators, enjoyed the sights and sounds of the day, and captured these images of that fine British pastime – a day at the races!

RIGHT:

The leading horse sails over this fence and increases its lead.

BELOW:

A cagey start as the riders try to gauge the form of their opposition.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



TOM SCORES ON MY FLORA

TOM David, who rode his 12th winner of the season at the Ledbury Point-To-Point Steeplechases on the Sheila Crow trained *West O'Rye*, who was seeing a racecourse for the first time, won the Chris Seward LifeTime In Racing Hunter Chase at Ludlow recently, thus denying the runner-up, *Divine Intervention*, a five-timer.

My Flora who had given Tom a good ride at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival when finishing fourth, got home by a length.

VALE TRAINERS' EXETER SUCCESS

Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan won four the six races staged at Exeter

recently.

Evan scored with *American Cricket* (Adam Wedge) and *Ugo* (also Adam Wedge,) and Tim with *George Woolf* (Richard Johnson) and *Swift Escape* (Robert Kirk)

MINSGILL MANS

Cowbridge's Jeffrey Thomas informs me that his 14-year-old *Minsgill Mans* has been retired.

This grand old warrior won three Crudwell Gold Cups at the Radnor & West Herefordshire meeting and came close to winning the Chepstow Dunraven Bowl on more than one occasion.

He won 13 races in total and only won once going left handed and that was at Laleston.

Mr Thomas said: "He was very much a family horse and seven of his wins were with James Tudor in the saddle."

He added: "It's time now to

say thanks, well done and a happy retirement."

JANE'S LUDLOW WINNER

Llancarfan permit holder

Jane Mathias had plenty to smile about at Ludlow recently when her six-year-old homebred *Sohappyhappy* landed the Racing Welfare Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The six-year-old, who was ridden by Richard Killoran, won by a length from *Cydonia* at odds of 8-1.

Half-an-hour or so later, Tom David won the hunters' steeplechase on the Sheila Crow trained *My Flora* which beat the highly rated *Divine Intervention* by a length.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge's day of protest as town's traders and residents try to save the cattle market

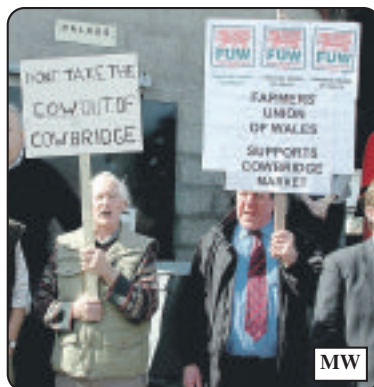


PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS and MIKE WILCOCK.

(Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn (telephone 07791 228684) and those marked 'MW' by Mike (telephone 01446 774484)).

THOUSANDS of local residents joined last Friday's protest in Cowbridge over plans to sell the site off the historic livestock market for housing for the elderly.

The marchers stretched from the town hall to the cattle market, and they stayed to hear Alun John, the president of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, outline the situation as the chamber saw it.



Marged and Owain raise money for local charity

LOCAL harpist Marged Hall held a lunchtime recital at the Duke of Wellington function room, Cowbridge, on Easter Monday, to raise money for the local charity Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI).

For the occasion, Marged was joined by baritone Owain Browne. Between them they entertained an appreciative audience with a varied programme for solo harp and solo baritone.

Marged opened with a bright rendition of JS Bach's 'Prelude from Violin Partita No3', arranged for harp by Grandjany, followed by Hasselmans' 'La Source', with further pieces by Parish Alvers



and Tchaikovsky. Owain's repertoire included a set of poems by John Masefield and Arthur Symmons, set to music for voice by John Ireland. His second set was the Gerald Finzi arrangement of Five Shakespeare Songs. The two joined to complete their programme with a nostalgic interpretation of the traditional Welsh songs 'Dafydd y Garreg Wen' and 'My Little Welsh Home'.

Owain, currently based in Cardiff, is a graduate of the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and

LEFT: Marged Hall and Owain Browne entertained at The Duke Of Wellington in Cowbridge, to raise money for charity.

Drama, while Marged, from St Hilary, is in her final year at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The performers are very grateful to the accomplished Sharon Richards, who joined them as accompanist. They are also very grateful to Philip Gamlin from Gamlin's Music Centre, who provided the piano.

Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI), which benefitted from the generosity of the audience, extended thanks to the young performers.

Get into gardening at the library!

AS National Gardening Week is here, Bridgend county borough libraries are a great source of free information on how to get the most out of your garden.

With almost a quarter of the UK population growing their own vegetables and an estimated three quarters of a million

people keeping chickens in their back garden, making use of your garden is an increasingly popular way to lead a healthier lifestyle, save money on fruit and vegetables and reduce your carbon footprint.

National Gardening Week is the perfect excuse to get out into the garden. Your local library has a variety of free materials including books,

DVDs, e-books and magazines, allowing you to save your money for plants or equipment.

You can search online for the materials available in your local library, as well as join the library and reserve and renew books by contacting: blis@bridgend.gov.uk, or visiting: www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries.

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PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
 Ideal for someone working from home. Versatile living. Extended detached dorma bungalow. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, also separate annexe to rear comprising bedroom, shower room, kitchen/sitting area (annexe can be accessed via main dwelling).
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PARC CLWYD, SPRINGFIELDS
 Detached dwelling constructed in 2000. Spacious living room, dining and conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast area, utility, wc cloak. 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), converted garage providing sitting/bedroom, shower room. Enclosed garden. Ample parking.
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 Modern detached, spacious living, five bedrooms, ensuite to two bedrooms. Converted garage, private rear garden. Living room and dining room. Kitchen/breakfast. Cul de sac position.
£244,950



ST LYTHANS ROAD, BARRY
 4 bedroomed, detached, cul de sac position. Living room, kitchen, open plan lounge with vaulted ceiling. Master ensuite. Enclosed garden. Driveway/garage.
£239,950



PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY
 Mid terraced, traditional, spacious living. Three reception rooms. 1st floor: 3 double bedrooms, ensuite and family bathroom. 2nd floor: double bedroom and ensuite. Double garage. Lane access.
£229,950



HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
 Imposing Victorian semi. Three reception rooms. Five bedrooms (master ensuite). Family bathroom. Original features throughout. Enclosed rear garden. Double glazed, gas central heating. Spacious family home.
£229,950



BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
 Semi detached. Covered balcony/sun terrace. Living room, kitchen/diner and sitting room. Three bedrooms. Self contained basement room consists of living/kitchen, double bedroom, shower room, driveway. Sea views from front.
£219,950



ECKLEY ROAD, SULLY
 Detached bungalow. Spacious living room. Two bedrooms. Low maintenance rear garden. Two conservatories. Integral garage. No chain. In need of modernisation.
£209,950



HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
 End of terrace, bay fronted traditional. Through living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, family bathroom, garage. Sea views from garden.
£204,950



WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, semi detached. Sea views from 1st floor. South facing rear garden. Living room, conservatory. Ground floor bathroom. First floor wc cloak. Driveway/parking.
£189,950



WESLEY AVENUE, RHOOSE
 Two bedrooms. Built in the 1950's. Semi detached bungalow. Living room, kitchen/diner, garage/parking, level enclosed garden. Viewing essential. No chain.
£184,950



ESGID MAIR, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, modern detached, corner positioned. Detached garage. Living room, kitchen/diner, bathroom - ensuite. Enclosed garden.
£179,950



DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
 Bay fronted traditional mid terraced. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, low maintenance garden. No chain.
£149,950



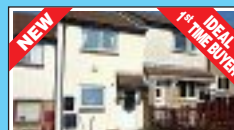
COURT ROAD, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, semi detached. Living room and dining room, kitchen. Stairs leading to hobby room (attic). Driveway parking. Front, side and rear gardens. No chain.
£134,950



TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE
 Mid terraced traditional bay fronted. Living room, dining room, kitchen, sun lounge, wc, shower room, 2 bedrooms, previously three. First floor bathroom. Over 100ft rear garden. Located opposite train station.
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WYND STREET, BARRY
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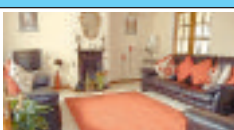
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 Detached property in Highlight Park. Four bedrooms, two reception rooms. Private enclosed rear garden. Driveway leading to garage. Utility room. wc cloakroom
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 Extended traditional semi-detached bay fronted bungalow, three receptions, sun lounge, level enclosed garden. Driveway to front.
£209,950



BRON AWELON, BARRY
 Well presented bay fronted semi detached. Living room with block flooring. Extended kitchen/diner 18ft. ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms with vanity sink. Sea views from 1st floor. Enclosed rear garden. Garage/parking.
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CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, living room, replacement fitted kitchen. Dining room, sitting room/fourth bedroom. Enclosed garden. Driveway.
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TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY
 Four bedroomed, semi detached. Larger than average front garden. Combi gas central heating/upvc double glazing. Attic conversion. Spacious living room. Some updating required.
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 Three bedrooms. Modern mid terraced. wc cloakroom, kitchen/diner. Living room, conservatory. Stairs rising to hobby area in attic. Backing onto allotments. parking.
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 Three bedrooms, living room, replacement fitted kitchen. Dining room, sitting room/fourth bedroom. Enclosed garden. Driveway.
£179,950

Pencoed fight to narrow defeat against the Quins



Gareth Prentice carries the ball forward.



Driving a try home by Tom Drew (at the bottom of the pack).

WITH Pencoed 1sts arriving with a good few wins under their belts, they had a positive attitude to take to Maesteg Quins.

At first Pencoed were strong in the scrum and at 10-3 down the game was still there for them.

Marc Davies scored the first try for Pencoed and converted, to get the game to 10-10. Gareth Prentice then broke with some outstanding support from the pack and backs, who were working hard together.

Everything looked set up for an exciting second half. Quins changed their front row to try and stop Pencoed from having their own way.

But within the first few minutes Quins had scored to take the score to 17-10. They were applying pressure and broke from their 22, but were quickly brought down by Pencoed.

The turning of the scrum from Quins resulted in another try, making it 22-10. A high tackle from Pencoed gave a penalty away, and

**MAESTEG QUINS RFC 32
PENCOED 1sts RFC 30**



Glen Hiscocks scores his try.

driving forward, Quins earned their fourth score and a valuable bonus point.

It was a good effort from Pencoed, who never gave up and kept plugging away at the Quins. Glen Hiscocks got a try with Marc Davies kicking to make it 27-17.

A superb catch from Glen Hiscocks and a dart through the Quins line before a juggled pass caught by Liam Halse gave hope, but the final

pass went astray to lose a try-scoring opportunity.

A penalty kick by Marc Davies and a line out ball from Quins on Pencoed's half gave the home side another try. But Pencoed had the last say with a driven try by Tom Drew and a final kick by Marc Davies to make the final score: Maesteg Quins 32, Pencoed 1sts 30.

Both teams would like to thank their supporters and sponsors for the season. **JH**

Masterpiece on display

VISITORS to The Welsh National Museum, Cardiff, get a chance to see one of the most important paintings of the Italian Renaissance when Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* is displayed from April 19-June 17.

Diana and Actaeon (1556-59) by Titian.



Police carry on run with win over Hirwaun

**SOUTH WALES POLICE 32
HIRWAUN 26**

SOUTH Wales Police welcomed Hirwaun to Waterton Cross and looked to improve on the previous weeks' mistakes.

The forwards again set the platform for the youthful backs to attack the visitors on every occasion. Half backs Josh Miles and Aled Roberts pushed the visitors back into their 22 whenever the opportunity came along.

The back row of Mike Williams, Sean Evans and Ashley Mathews defended well and were solid at the breakdown, and the Police's first points came when a well-worked move saw scrum-half Josh Miles attack the visitors' try line, and the forwards took the ball on with No8 Sean James forcing his way over. Miles added the two extra points and also slotted over a penalty, giving the Police a 10-point lead. Hirwaun then came back with two penalties.

The Police continued to pressure the Hirwaun try line and the next points came from flanker Ashley Mathews, Miles again adding the extra two points.

Hirwaun then replied with another penalty and a converted try.

The Police looked to have scored another try by Will Williams, only for the referee to say he was unsighted and it didn't stand.

The Police looked dangerous with ball in

hand and lock Joe Maloney went on some solo runs, and also took line out ball, stealing several from the visitors.

The Police backs again put together some lovely moves which saw fly half Aled Roberts make several strong breaks.

Forwards Chris Phillips, Rob Evans and Vernon Dladla were putting in some strong runs and solid defence work, however the Police again were guilty of giving away silly penalties that saw Hirwaun come back into the game. The Police then extended the lead with another penalty from Miles.

Replacement wing Lee Roderick looked dangerous and with his first touch went on a solo run, forcing his way over in the corner. Miles again added the extra two.

It was only minutes later that Roderick went over for his second. Miles again adding the extras.

Hirwaun were still pressuring the Police line and got two unconverted tries to bring the score to 29-23. They then secured another penalty, but scrum-half Miles put the game out of reach with another well-taken penalty, bringing his points tally to 15 on the day.

Although the Police have struggled recently, things seem to be going in the right direction with three wins out of their last four matches – two of those wins coming with bonus points. **BS**

Grading success for Wales TKD

A huge congratulations to all students of Wales TKD who passed their grading.

The day started at 10am with an hour's technical session for all of the black belts focusing on coloured belt and black belt patterns.

The next hour was spent with all of the students again concentrating on fundamental movements and some self defence applications.

Grading saw emphasis on patterns and application of techniques, and all of the students showed that they have worked really hard this year.

Once again a big thank you to Master David Dykes, who also presented Laura Charley with her II Degree certificate.

Congratulations to: Brandon Williams 9th Kup, Madison Morgan 9th Kup, Caitlin Lamont 9th Kup, Leah Roberts 9th Kup, Mathew Snook 9th Kup, Nigel Thomas 9th Kup, Ellie Walker 9th Kup.

Brooklyn Luce 7th Kup, Megan Lewis 7th Kup, Ethan Barnes 7th Kup, Alan Williams 7th Kup.

Breeanne Walker 6th Kup, Teigan Blanch 5th Kup, Rebecca Beach 5th Kup, Kaitlyn Lewis 4th Kup, Nicole Dando 4th Kup.

Emma Heaslip 3rd Kup, Joshua Heaslip 2nd Kup, Jay Dupre 2nd Kup, Seren Dupre, 2nd Kup.

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GL

'Stunning', 'entertaining' victory for Porthcawl

Five-point win at Cwmgrach



Photos courtesy of Tracey Williams.

The emphatic Iain O'Keefe charges on with Nick Nutman in support.

**CWMGRACH RFC 15
PORTHCAWL RFC 41**

PORTHCAWL travelled to the Dulais Valley to face Cwmgrach and came home with a stunning victory and five points to boot.

Lock Ian O'Keefe, having shown glimpses the week before, proceeded to give the performance of his young career to date with a superb display of graft and brute force in the loose.

The match was barely five minutes old when O'Keefe scooped up a loose ball 20 metres out and drove over in the corner for a try, perfectly converted by fly-half Tim Richards for 0-7.

Cwmgrach came back and capitalised on poor Porthcawl defence for a try of their own at 5-7 before full-back Ollie Jones scorched over for a try to make it 5-12.

As Porthcawl hammered away at the home defence, with O'Keefe the main architect of the mayhem, Lloyd Long crossed for a try, converted by Richards, and at 5-19 the Seaweeds were good value for their lead.

Cwm managed their second try, after a comical mix-up in Porthcawl's defence for a half-time score of 10-19.

Richards started the second half with a neat penalty for Porthcawl before Nick Nutman, again showing his prowess in attack, burst out of defence on a searing 50-metre break that led to a superb try for wing Sean Simmonds for a lead of 10-27.

Once more, the home side took full advantage of some slack Porthcawl defence to secure their third try at 15-27, but

The Seaweeds deservedly ran out 15-41 winners in an often error-ridden, but nevertheless exciting match.

Roberts led the side well in the absence of Mattie Davies, with Nutman, James Davies and Sion Dunley shining amongst the Porthcawl eight, whilst Richards, Steve Phillips, Jones and Simmonds were attacking threats throughout.

Porthcawl are due to entertain South Wales Police this Saturday (April 21), before Rhigos visit Porthcawl on May 12.

PF



Tim Richards drives forward with support from Ian O'Keefe and James Wheatley.



Matthew Roberts in possession for Porthcawl.



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**STEVENS
Cyril Charles**
Peacefully on April 14, at Llandough Hospital,
Cyril of Rhosce (retired Chief Insp., South Wales
Police). Adored husband of Helen, loving father
of Andrew and Linda, much loved Bamps
of Craig and Emily.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wed April 25, service 2.30pm
at St Peters Church, Rhosce followed by cremation
at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry
at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu
if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society
c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

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Mary Berkeley
A year since your sad passing
on 20th April, 2011.
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Your loving husband Colin
and family x x x

**RICHARDS
Cheryl**
Passed away peacefully after a long illness,
on April 11, 2012, aged 46 years.
Cheryl, beloved daughter of Martin and
Mavis. Cherished partner of Scott.
Much-loved mum of Philippa and Andrew,
loving sister of Michelle and special
daughter-in-law of Keith and Kay.
Forever in our thoughts.

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WATTS, Marian
Peacefully at home on April 10th, after a short
illness, Marian, loving wife of the late Evan,
mother of Kate and the late Elspeth, mother-
in-law of John and grandmother of Will.
Private funeral.

**YOUNG
Margot Carhyle**
Died peacefully at her daughter's home in
Cowbridge on April 4, 2012.
Born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1930. Dearly
loved mother of Richard, Ian and Jenny and by her
close friend and companion, Shirin Spencer.
The funeral service will take place at 12.30pm at
St Cadoc's Catholic Church in Cowbridge on
Monday April 30.
If you wish, donations may be made to Marie Curie
Hospice in Penarth, or Velindre Cancer Centre, rather
than in the form of a floral tribute.

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**HILL
Christmas Henry Roy**
Peacefully passed away at the Princess of Wales
Hospital on the 6th April 2012.
Dearly loved, father, grandfather and great
grandfather, will be sadly missed by all his family.
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Llantwit Major until
the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Friday
20th April 2012 at 1.45 p.m. followed by cremation
at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15 p.m.
Family flowers only, but donations may be made
to MacMillan Nurses c/o the Funeral Director
(cheques only please). Grateful thanks to staff
at Ward 10 for their kindness and care.

**FRANKLIN
Regina (Jean)**
Passed away peacefully on 14th April at
Holme Tower Penarth, after a short illness,
Jean of Llantwit Major aged 74 years.
She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Colin,
her children Diane and Paul and her beloved grand
children Max and Sam. She is resting at WA Brown,
Llantwit Major until the celebration of her life takes place
at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday 24th April at
2.15pm. Family flowers only, memorial donations if
desired may be made on the day in envelopes provided to
Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Rd,
Penarth or c/o the Funeral Director. (cheques only)

Birthdays

**Happy 60th
Birthday Marthe!**
on 21st April
All our love
Hannah, Justin,
Clare and Emily
x x x

**PARSONS
Jimmy (of Llantwit Major)**
James Thomas Parsons Jnr, died suddenly on April 8.
Beloved son of Iris and Jimmy Parsons Snr, dearly loved
father of Donna and Katie Ford, loving brother of Barry,
Michael, John and Pauline, loved by his nearest and
dearest - farewell darling.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons,
Fommon. Funeral Tues April 24, service and cremation
2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to
Drug & Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre, please make
cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account
c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ

**DAWSON
Trudy (Gertrude)**
Neé Millbrook, formerly Roach
10.4.1911 - 2.4.2012
Trudy, of Llantwit Major, formerly of
Buxton, Derbyshire, passed away at
Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend,
south Wales, on April 2nd 2012
at almost 101 years old.
Beloved wife of the late Reg, dearly loved
Mother of Michael, Anthony and Patricia
and stepmother to Bren, Peter and Lesley.
Very much loved grandma, step-grandma
and recently great-grandma. A remarkable
lady who will be greatly missed.
Funeral to be held at Macclesfield
Crematorium on 23rd April 2012 at 12 noon.
Family flowers only please. Donations to
British Heart Foundation can be sent to R W
Percivals of 9a Heath Street, Buxton, SK17
6LT. A memorial service will be held in
Llantwit Major at a later date.

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**RUSCOE
David**
Peacefully passed away on April 7th, 2012
at Holme Tower, Penarth.
Loving husband of Christine, much loved Dad
of Richard and Alison, Grandad to Megan and Joseph.
Father-in-law to Owen, will be sadly missed
by all family and friends.
Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major
on Thursday, April 26th, 2012 at 1pm, followed by
interment at Boverton Cemetery.
Flowers may be sent to J R or M F David,
Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

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EVAN'S NATIONAL RUNNERS 'FINE'

LLANCAFFAN trainer Evan Williams, who saddled fourth placed Cappa Bleu in last Saturday's Grand National, reports that all three of his runners – the other two were *State Of Play* and *Deep Purple*, who did not finish – “are absolutely fine, no problems at all.”

He added: “They are sound as a pound and have eaten everything up.

Cappa Bleu ran a fantastic race and was given a very good ride by Paul

Moloney. He got murdered on two or three occasions and did well to stand up and finish fourth, only beaten by 12 lengths.”

Elsewhere, Evan's four-year-old bay gelding *Gap Of Dunloe*, ridden by DE Splaine, was a 13-lengths winner of the opening maiden hurdle at Ffos Las on Sunday at odds of 50-1! And those few punters who backed the former Irish flat race winner on the tote received odds of just over 64-1!

Aberth's Tim Vaughan was represented at the Grand National by *Postmaster*, which was

pulled-up. However, Tim saddled his 100th winner of the season when his *Saint Are* beat *Battle Group* by half-a-length in the big hurdle race.

Congratulations to Matthew Barber, who rides out for Tim Vaughan, on winning on 20-1 outsider *Strictly* at Newton Abbot last week. *Strictly* is trained at Bridgend by former amateur rider Vivian Hughes.

Tim then notched-up his 101st winner of the season when his *Paradise Expected* won the two-miles-five-furlongs handicap chase under Michael Byrne.

This Saturday, the Pentrych Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases are being held at Redlands Farm Racecourse, Bonvilton, and the main event of the day is the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles (first race at 2pm).

Sam Hills impresses at championships

ON the weekend of March 24-25, Sam Hills from Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the Nationwide Junior and Youth Swimming Championships, held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

The events division of The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) organised the annual event, which aims to give young swimming talent an opportunity to compete and a springboard to international success, so it is a great chance to spot future stars.

Double gold Beijing Paralympic medallist and London 2012 hopeful Eleanor Simmonds was amongst the competitors. It was a fantastic

weekend of swimming. The event welcomed over 200 swimmers from across the country, where two world records, one European record and eight British records were broken – all records are dependent on ratification.

Sam (15), a pupil at Stanwell School, was born with hip, leg and feet problems. After five operations on each leg and foot he was able to walk, although any activities that require running are difficult.

However, he can swim, and started swimming with Barry Amateur Swimming Club at the start of this year.

During the weekend he was classified as a disabled swimmer for Wales and this major competition was his first national event.

Sam achieved a silver medal in the 100 metres breaststroke. He swam the distance in a time of two minutes, 10.98 seconds, just behind Morgan Vaughan, who also swam for Wales.

This is such a fantastic achievement for someone who has been swimming with a club for a short amount of time.

Also during the same weekend, Barry Amateur Swimming Club held its AGM at the Welsh Tabernacle Church in Holton Road, Barry. During the event, Heulwen Cooper, the club Chair, announced the 2012-2013 club captains and vice captains.

This year, as always, the captains were voted for by the swimmers of the club. The club captains are Michael Crompton and Georgia Looker, who both have been long-standing members of the club.

For the first time as the votes were closed it was decided to have two vice captains. So Jonathan Bowden and Jonathan Haggart were chosen for the boys and Alice Lewis and Alana Wilson for the girls. Well done to all of you.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

For more information, also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

Jude Hills

Skoda's pitch for the executive market is Superb

by TIM SAUNDERS

CAR names create expectations.

For instance, buy a Renault Espace and you anticipate bags of room, while the Toyota Land Cruiser conjures up visions of a very capable vehicle on and off the road. Both these examples easily live up to their names.

Naming a vehicle can be a tricky exercise though, as Mitsubishi knows all too well with its Charisma, which sadly didn't have any.

Understandably, other manufacturers, like BMW and Peugeot, steer well clear, instead sticking to numbers – perhaps a safer bet.

And so to the Skoda Superb. The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'superb' as excellent, magnificent or splendid. Skoda owner Volkswagen also owns Bentley so perhaps this choice of name should have been reserved for its most prestigious marque...

However, this top of the range Skoda is aimed at the chauffeured executive.

It's necessary for car manufacturers to set themselves apart from the competition and so the Superb has two key points of interest.

Starting with the boot, push one button underneath the boot rim and the boot lid opens like a saloon, push another and the whole tailgate rises like a hatchback. This makes it a very user-friendly vehicle for most kinds of loads.

Other neat and perhaps even 'superb' touches include the concealed umbrella in the left-hand rear door to help executives tackle the British climate.

A similar feature can be found in a Rolls Royce costing five times as much. There is also the option of Park Assist – a function for making the Superb park itself. However, it could benefit from a wiper on the rear windscreen because it does get a bit mucky.

Perhaps the marketing team, during their brain-



ABOVE: The Skoda Superb.

storming, felt that Superb aptly referred to Skoda's 1.4-litre engine that powers the base model and delivers more than adequate performance.

However, the sprightly 1.8 TSi tested really does feel more like a two-litre, although when changing down from sixth to fourth and then accelerating back up there can be a small delay. But this can be overcome with a bit of revving.

The six-speed manual box is decisive and reliable. It all adds to the driving experience, which, as with all Skodas, is generally smooth, particularly at speed. The Superb holds the road well and corners with aplomb.

A well-appointed vehicle, virtually all functions are electrically operated and the black leather interior is comfortable, although the front seats could benefit from additional padding in the lower lumbar region.

So perhaps Skoda was justified in calling this model Superb after all... The 1.8-litre TSi model tested: New price range: £17,675 - £31,725; 0-60secs: 8.5secs; top speed: 137mph; economy: 39.8mpg.

Local trainers win at Ludlow

LLANCAFFAN permit holder Jane Mathias had plenty to smile about at Ludlow when her six-year-old homebred *Sohappyharry* landed the Racing Welfare Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The horse, who was ridden by Richard Killoran, won by a length from *Cydonia* at odds of 8-1.

Half-an-hour or so later, Tom David won the hunters steeplechase on the Sheila Crow-trained *My Flora*, which beat the highly rated *Divine Intervention* by a length.

Brian Lee

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BRIDGEND ATH RFC 18
TONDU RFC 19

A PENALTY with two minutes to go from halfway by Tondy outside half Paul Smithson burst the Athletic bubble, ending a five-match winning sequence in Swalec League Division One West as Tondy inflicted a 19-18 defeat in this tense local derby.

It also made Tondy the only side to do the double over the Athletic in the league this season.

Bridgend started with an advantage of a stiff breeze and had early territorial advantage.

They suffered a blow in the 10th minute when influential lock Tom Penry-Ellis was forced to leave the field with an ankle injury.

The early pressure saw outside half Stephen Lewis open the scoring for the Ath with a 40-metre penalty, and he soon bettered that with another from 45 metres. He then made it 9-0 from 25 metres when Tondy were reduced to 14 men with a yellow card for prop Lloyd Elliott for a high tackle.

The Athletic failed to take advantage as the Tondy pack denied them good possession for their potent backs with a physical approach, playing right in the Athletic faces.

This unsettled the home side and only young flanker Stuart

Edbrooke matched their physicality, with too many forwards standing off the contact area at rucks and mauls.

Just after the yellow card, Tondy outside half Paul Smithson chipped over the Athletic defence on halfway. Bridgend made a hash of the clearance, fly hacking a bouncing ball straight back into the hands of Smithson, who raced away under the posts. He converted his own try to reduce the deficit to 9-7.

Lewis then kicked a fourth penalty to make it 12-7 at half-time to the Athletic.

A fifth penalty five minutes into the second half increased the lead to 15-7.

But the Ath failed to deal with the restart, conceding a penalty, which Smithson converted to reduce the deficit to 15-10.

Tondy were now enjoying the lion's share of possession and territory. The Athletic held out until the 70th minute when Smithson made it 15-13 with another penalty.

Then they at last woke up. First, scrum half Aled Thomas split the Tondy defence with a good run, then outside half Lewis beat six men before centre Michael Hathaway was hauled into touch right by the corner flag.

There then followed a mad three minutes. Another Smithson penalty put Tondy 16-15 ahead.



Athletic outside half Stephen Lewis with lock Kyle Galtry in support.
PHOTOGRAPHS by GLENNSPORTS.

From the restart, Tondy were penalised and Lewis restored the Athletic lead to 18-16 with his sixth penalty.

Poor discipline saw, for the fourth time, the Athletic gather a knock-on from a high kick in an offside position. Smithson used the wind to launch a mighty winning kick from halfway.

Tondy deserved the win as all 15 of their players were more committed to the cause.

Flanker Stuart Edbrooke was the Athletic man of the match, while centre Michael Hathaway was the Athletic player of month for April.

None the less, the Ath have had a good end to the season, picking up 25 points from the last six games to leave them in sixth place on 51.

They now enter the new Championship Division next season. Coaches Paul Yardley, John Apsee, David Williams and team manager Paul Hearn will be looking to strengthen the side.

They are also hoping that two influential players, flanker Sean Williams and centre Robert Cole, who missed the entire season with injury, will again be available.

The club would like to thank match sponsors Mr Richard Dyke of R & M Dyke Civil Engineering Ltd and Mr Gary Reffell of Terry Reffell Ltd Heating Warehouse, and match ball sponsor, former player Mr Gavin David of CRD Precision Engineering Ltd.

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Ben Jones on the attack for Kenfig Hill RFC against Maesteg.

Patchwork Mules side earn good win over Maesteg RFC



Marc Fitzgerald in action as players from both sides look on.

PHOTOGRAPHS by PETER GILLING.

KENFIG Hill needed to pick themselves up after their 31-7 loss to Glynneath in the semi-final of the Silver Ball Competition in midweek when they took on Maesteg on the weekend.

They had to make several changes due to injury but the players brought in did not let the side down.

Maesteg opened the scoring with a penalty by Chris Buckley and followed that up with a try by Mike Powell.

Kenfig Hill replied with a try by centre Chris Tossell, converted by Rhodri Clark.

Maesteg came back with a try by Luke Condon, but Kenfig Hill started to apply some pressure and were rewarded with a push-over try, touched down by No8 Derwyn Rees, converted by Clark.

Butler added a penalty for Maesteg and Powell scored his second try just before half-time to make the score 14-23 to the visitors.

Clark opened the scoring for the Mules in the second half with a penalty struck from the



Rhodri Clark leads the way.

halfway line. Powell then completed his hat-trick for Maesteg to give them an 11-point lead.

A piece of brilliance by Kenfig Hill outside half Owen Davies then turned the game for the visitors, Maesteg took a quick throw in before a line out formed, Davies anticipated where the ball was being thrown and intercepted it, jinking his way through the covering defence to score under the posts, Clark converting.

Kenfig Hill took the lead for the first time in the game through substitute flanker Gareth Downes, who ghosted

his way over, converted by Clarke.

This made the final score: Kenfig Hill 31, Maesteg 28.

For Kenfig Hill, captain and prop Gareth Edwards was named man of the match with centres Chris Tossell and Rhodri Clark outstanding in attack and defence. Second row Ben Jones again stood out in the forwards along with No8 Derwyn Rees and hooker Karl Davies.

Thomas Maund also played well in his first game back after a lengthy lay off through injury.

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